

Thursday January 4 1

2 Guardia

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Inside the nation's shopping trolleys Supermarket **Wars**

Guardian 2 with European weather



OnLine

A game of cosmic ping-pong

G2 pages 10/13

Maradona confesses to cocaine addiction

'lam, was, and always will be a drug addict

This section page 16

Dissident ordered to Caribbean island after pressure from arms firms

UK bows to Saudis

Fury as Arab refugee expelled

Seumas Milne and lan Black

HE British government yesterday bowed to pressure from the Saudi regime, the United States government and British arms companies when it ordered the deportation of Saudi Arabia's most prominent dissident to a tiny Caribbean island, the Guardian has

Mohammed al-Mas'ari, leader of the influential London-based Islamic opposition group, the Committee for the Defence of Legitimate Rights, who last year applied for po litical asylum in Britain, has been given 10 days to appeal against his removal to Dominica, or report to Gatwick air-port on January 19.

Mr Mas'ari, who escaped from Saudi Arabia via Yemen, was told by the Home that his application was being refused "without and that Edison James, the prime minister of the former British colony of Dominica has agreed to give him asylum. Earlier this year, a government attempt to deport the Saudi dissident back to Yemen was blocked by the Immigration Appeals Tribunal on the grounds that his life would be in danger there. News of Mr Mas'ari's de-

portation order came on the day the Foreign Office an-nounced that Andrew Green, currently in charge of Middle East policy in London, has been appointed British ambassador in Riyadh - reflecting the pivotal nature of the Saudi relationship.

The latest move to get rid of Mr Mas'ari was greeted with outrage by human rights and Middle East campaigners.

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Lord Avebury, a Liberal Democrat peer and chairman of the Parliamentary Human Rights Group, said the expul-sion was a breach of Britain's obligations under the UN Convention. He added that "highly improper" public criticism of Mr Masa'ri by the Foreign Secretary, Malcolm Rifkind, had seriously prejudiced the asylum secker's

George Galloway, the Scot-tish Labour MP who has championed the Saudi opposi-



Mohammed al-Mas'ari, vociferous critic of the Saudi regime, at home yesterday. He has 10 days to appeal against deportation

"Elba-type exile" was a "sor-did act of obeisance to the arms dealers in Britain and

the dictators in Rivadh". Under the Immigration Act, refugees can be deported to a safe third country if they did not come to Britain from the country where they risk per-secution. But a Home Office spokeswoman said she was not aware of any precedent for the power being used in the way it is being deployed against Mr Masa'ri, who is ex-

pected to appeal.

Mr Mas'ari's removal tion, last night wrote to the would be an enormous relief multinationals such as

Britain an embarrassment in relations with Saudi Arabia.

ical ally in the region. In recent months the ques tion of what to do with him has become an obsession for businessmen were repeatedly warned of sanctions by Saud Arabia if action were not taken. King Fahd, until this week absolute ruler of Saudi Arabia, is understood to have personally demanded Mr Mas'ari's expulsion when Mr Rifkind was in Riyadh last

toll in lost contracts.

and tortured in Saudi Arabia before he came to Britain in organisation campaigns for against corruption and the presence of foreign troops in the country. Despite its Islamist colour, it has also, for example, opposed the Saudi ban on women driving cars. Every week the campaign

faxes to Saudi Arabia hun-dreds of copies of a newsletter detailing corruption. A favourite item is "prince of

Home Secretary. Michael to the Foreign Office, which | Vickers and British Aero | the month," which exposes | "Such people are unwelcome Howard, saying his decision has found his presence in space told the Government it the alleged misdeeds of a in Britain," a spokesman said to deport Mr al-Mas'ari to an Britain an embarrassment in must act or face a devastating member of the royal family. member of the royal family.
Saudi Arabia bought £1.5 ment is understood to have billion worth of British goods to expel Mr Mas'ari, which has been approved by the in 1994 and is Britain's 18th largest export market. More Prime Minister and the Cabial-Yamamah arms-for-oil net's Overseas Policy and Dedeal, signed by Margaret Thatcher in 1985, which in-

fence Committee.

The Foreign Office made no volves the supply of British official comment, but a source Aerospace Tornado aircraft and other defence equipment said: "Mas'ari has been an ir-ritant in the relationship with over about 20 years. Last November, the Foreign Office denounced Mr Mas'ari no secret of our distaste at certain comments emanating from him and his ilk."

when he expressed understanding of the motives of those who planted a bomb at a US installation in Riyadh.

Jackpot fever conjures up

DESPITE the improbabil-ity and security precau-tions, speculation grew yes-

However, the Heritage Department insisted only a lunatic would waste £13,983,916 on a "lousy bet" covering every poss-ible permutation.

faced in Australia and centred on Stefan Mandel, a Romanian-born mathematician whose syndicate won £18 million on the Virginia state lottery two years ago.
As the rumours gained credibility yesterday, attention focused on the logistical problems. Camelot, the lottery operator, produced mind-boggling figures designed to prove how steeply the odds are stacked against any

syndicate.

Each card, for example, must be filled in by hand, and it takes four seconds for the computer to register every five numbers.

At that rate it would take 40 retailers 16 hours to record every possible combination.

Another source estimated it would take 50,000 hours to fill in every card. If you started at 9am today, you would need 900 insomniac pals to complete the task by the time the lottery closed Continued on page 3, col 4

Major 'must crush Tory rightwing'

Howarth today warns his old party that to deal with Michael Portillo as Edward Heath dealt with Enoch Powell" will condemn the party to at least two general election defeats before it comes to its senses.

In a fresh incitement to rebellion on the Tory left, made in an article in today's Guardian, the MP for Stratford-on-Avon, who joined Labour two months before Emma Nicholson defected to the Liberal Democrats, predicts that the rightwing ma-jority of Tory MPs who sur-vive the coming election will defeat their One Nation col-leagues in "the short and nasty struggle" to pick a new

Mr Howarth argues that only when Michael Portillo or John Redwood, or whoever the rightwing leader of the Tories is, has lost the election after next will it be brought home to the party that it has marginalised itself.

"The return to sanity and decency will begin then" -too late for One Nation Tories

now at Westminster. While Miss Nicholson said resterday that only Kenneth Clarke's succession to the leadership would start the Tories on "the way back", Mr contrasts Mr Major's "ap-peasement" of the right with Mr Heath's expulsion of Mr Powell from his shadow cabinet after the "rivers of blood" speech predicting racial may hem in 1968.

Urging ex-colleagues to de-fect to the Labour Party, he says that the Conservative Party has "reached a point of confusion and aberration at which the judgment of its MPs who object deeply to rightwing zealotry must surely be that they should go beyond protesting. They have fought their corner bravely

prevail. The time has come for one-nation Tory MPs to say they will no longer put up with the harshness, injustice, dogmatism and stupidity of the dominant right."

Although Mr Howarth urges more leftwing MPs to defect, rather than shore up Mr Major into 1997, he warns them that they will face ostracism from ex-colleagues Nicholson have done.

Some rightwing Torles, in cluding Mr Redwood, are appalled at the harsh rhetoric of colleagues like Michael Heselweek's defection. But yester-day the in-fighting which it triggered showed no signs of subsiding.

Tempers were further in-flamed by a pledge from leftleaning Tory MPs in the new Macleod Group to publish their own alternative policies

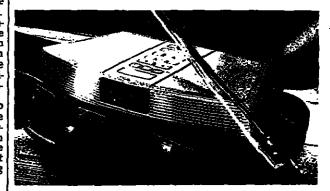
William Waldegrave, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, warned fellow moderates that their alleged "manifesto" could undermine the party at a critical time.

As members of the 50-strong group of One Nation MPs played down the significance of their planned pam-phlet by insisting it was not intended to be provocative, Mr Waldegrave said: "I don't think it is very sensible of ceivably be an election year to start challenging people in

their own party. "It's perfectly right to remember that the Conservative Party, or any party in this country which has a chance of winning an election, has got to be a broad

"Within that broad church you are going to have different views. Now, a party that is going to win, and a skilful party, is one that binds together differing views."

Will you join the dance? and and doggedly from within, Hugo Young, page 9



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Police chief urges pepper sprays

Owen Bowcott

OLICE constables should be armed with CS gas or pepper sprays to foil knife attacks, the Chief Constable of the West Mid-lands police urged yesterday after assaults on four of his officers in one evening.
One of the injured consta-

bles, PC Vanessa Greening, aged 22, was still in hospital with a fractured skull last night after being confronted m a Birmingham suburb by six men armed with sledgehammers, an iron bar and

Speaking at a press conference at force headquarters, Sir Ronald Hadfield warned: My fear is that it will take the death of an officer before measures are taken to give my officers protection. The only answer in the



fractured in iron bar attack

slow march towards arming all police is the introduction of some form of incapacitator such as CS gas or pepper, which is used in America."

ficers in Birmingham were

in the unconnected incidents on Tuesday evening, of-

had been responding to reports of a burglary in the King's Heath area.
PC Jackson was struck on the back of the head with a sledgehammer and later required six stitches for an arm wound. PC Greening was attacked as she went to his aid and was beaten around the head with an iron bar.

In the second incident, two officers were called to a flat in Edghaston, where they confronted a gang assaulting the owner. At least four of the gang were armed with knives, including a seven-inch bowle

Assaults on police officers are up 5 per cent on the previous year, Sir Ronald said. "We have here three incidents where my officers could have been killed very, very

faced with two gangs wielding | easily. They were protected knives. PC Greening and a colleague, PC Jon Jackson, option available to me would be firearms. I have increased the number of firearms carried by officers in my force but if these police officers had an incapacitator of some sort, they could have prevented further injuries to urther injuries hemselves."

The chief constable said he would prefer pepper spray, which was widely used by American police. The Home Office and Association of Chief Police Officers are concerned about the medical effects of pepper sprays, which some sources fear could be carcinogenic.

Trials of CS sprays were halted last summer after a Metropolitan Police inspector suffered burns to his eyes. Chemists are searching for a safer solvent to be used in

unlikely tale of syndicate laying a £14m 'lousy bet' Owen Bowcott

terday that a 2,500-strong Australian syndicate was planning to win the record £33 million-plus triple rollover National Lottery jackpot this weekend.

Reports of the plan sur-

Comment 9 Obituaries 10 Financial news 11

Screen 8/9 OnLine 10/11

Washington sketch

Telling it like it is - in the audience



Jonathan Freedland

HITNEY Houston is not a preacher, though she seemed like one. Each time she spoke, her audience cried out in response.
"That's right," they chorused like a congregation at one of Washington's countless black churches. "Hmm-hmm, say it

girl." Except this was not a church, but a cinema. And Whitney Houston was not preaching, but on screen in the first smash hit of 1996: Waiting To Exhale, the movie version of a novel about four black professional women and their search for the right man.

The overwhelmingly black audience at Washington's Union Station cinema was proof that, since opening as the number one film in America, Waiting is no longer a mere movie. It's a social phe-

African-American women have hailed the film as "our Million Man March" — their answer to the all-male black rally that filled Washington

last October. Groups of black women mothers, daughters, friends, church groups and women's book clubs — have been pack ing out cinemas like this one, engaging in the kind of calland-response usually reserved for the baptist ser-

mon or the political rally.
"Go, girl!," cried the audience in unison, when Bernadine, played by Angela Bassett, filled her cheating husband's BMW with all his suits, doused it in petrol and torched the lot. His crime: he had just told Bernadine he was leaving her — for a white

Never for a moment was the cinema silent. "Hal-lo," the audience called as love interest Wesley Snipes came into view. "Swing, girl," they urged as portly Gloria wiggled

her way past a new suitor. When Whitney Houston was submitted to a rapid, no-

First night

Michael Billington

OU can go years without seeing Webster's The Duchess of Malfi. Then.

The Duchess of Malfi

suddenly, like Number 11

buses, they come along in

wich Theatre production.

which also, by odd chance,

ended up at Wyndham's. One thing, however, they

sis on the quasi-incestuous

duchess and her twin brother, Ferdinand. In older, more cir-

cumspect, days it always seemed odd that Ferdinand

and the Cardinal should ob-

ject so strenuously to their

son with her steward.

widowed sister's furtive liai-

But here Scott Handy's fe-

mauls Anastasia Hille's reciprocally affectionate duchess in a way that suggests they are still locked together in a nurs-ery passion. Even the vicious

practical jokes he plays on her

smack of infantile japes rather than ghoulish horror

This is in keeping with the tone of Donnellan's immacu-

lately intelligent production.

He treats the play less as a Hammer horror exercise in the

macabre than as a study of the contrast between official belief

He sets the action in a 1930-

ish Italianate world poised un-

easily between Catholicism

and fascism and that masks the real nature of people's

black and deep desires.

and instinctive sexuality.

verish Ferdinand paws and

relationship between the

pairs. But Declan Donnellan's

Cheek By Jowl revival is infi-nitely darker and more dis-

turbing than last year's Green-

Wyndham's Theatre

Driven to despair

in moral depravity

foreplay clinch, the audito-rium erupted. "Hold on baby, I'm on my way," said the young on-screen lover, unable to contain himself. The rest of the scene was greeted by whoops, cheers and laughter. The men in the audience were consnictionally byshed. conspicuously hushed

"I wouldn't shake that man's hand," muttered Anita Bonner, as Bernadine made peace with her ex after win-ning a chunky alimony settlement. "She did the right thing, honey." said Anita's husband, Calvin.

The Union Station cinema has become used to an audi-ence-participation tradition among the mainly black community it serves. A sign head-lined "Yakety Yak!" reminds patrons of the "two shushes" rule — be warned over noise twice and you're out.

But Waiting To Exhale is a special case. "You can relate to it," said Sarah Jones, a secretary at the Department of Commerce. "You've thought it before, and it's like, finally

someone said it." Actress Lela Rochon has said she liked making the film because for once black vomen were not shown as "hookers, strippers and on welfare." Sarah Jones agree "A lot of black films are beat 'em up, gang 'em up, and life i not always like that."

She and her friend Cynthia Miller had spent their New Year's Eve just like the characters in the film and they related to every detail, from the ageing mother living off state benefits to the all-black

"We're all like that," said Cynthia. "This movie's opening a lot of people's eyes to

their own lives." Critics have attacked the film and the source novel for damning portrayals of black men, but the Washington crowd had no problem with the view that relationships with married men or crackheads are doomed

"They're behind bars, they've got bad credit, they want white women, they're ugly, and they've got little dicks that can't fuck," say the four characters during one, ensemble men-bashing ses-

Actually, the list went on, but the rest was inaudible swamped by the noise of laughter, high fives and

The result is a revelation. In this context, Anastasia Hille's

woman of fierce sexuality who

am Duchess of Malfi still," she

dangling from her mouth. Yet

strikes an ironic pose with

hand on hip and a cigarette

moves one deeply when she

But running through the

whole production is the idea

cries: "Men oft are valued

high when they are most

his mistress savagely.

not an alabaster saint but a

astonishing duchess be

Roseau, the capital of Dominica, an island of 72,000 whose main export is bananas (below right). The tranquility is shaken only by the odd hurricane

Exile hits boardrooms where it hurts

Saudi irritation at the activities of a hi-tech dissident has sent frightening signals to British firms, reports **Leslie Plommer**

Mas'ari, the un-crowned king of Middle East-ern radical cheek.

For well over a year, Mr Mas'ari, aged 49, has used the unlikely venue of London NW10 to maul the Saudi regime with hi-tech guerrilla warfare, and in the process has made himself Saudi Arabia's best known dissident. In that time, the flat in Willesden where he has lived since coming secretly to Brit-ain in April 1994, has become

evision inte viewers, Arab informants and the disaffected of the Gulf. The loss of this bridgehead would be a blow to Mr Mas'ari and his "Committee for the Defence of Legitimate Rights" if Britain carries out his expulsion to the Carib-bean island of Dominica as

planned on January 19. Disseminating newsletters by fax and Internet pronouncements mixing rumour, fact and invective. Mr Mas'ari has shown what alarm an articulate operator with a few

OM WOLFE would | digital tools can produce, not have a fine time only among Saudi Arabia's with Mohammed all notoriously nervous rulers.

but among Britain's supposedly phlegmatic elite as well.
While many Saudis and Western officials are not convinced by his self-portrayal as a campaigning democrat suspecting him of being in the thrall of Islamic medievalists — his anti-Riyadh attacks have recently begun to hit hard, not so much among average Saudis but in British

boardrooms. "There is a growing tive attitude at the [Saudi] ness with Britain," one banker said yesterday. He added that "irritation has intensified" at Mr Mas'ari's activities and is now "extreme right through to the top" in the Saudi government.

British companies say firmly that, although they have received no formal threats, there have been clear and increasing signals in the past three months that they are being refused contracts because of Mr Mas'ari's resiIn the eight months to August 1995, Britain sold £960 million worth of exports to Saudi Arabia. The giant al-Yamamah armaments contract alone accounts for 70,000 British jobs. At a time when Gulf con-

tracts no longer come easily, the Mas'ari factor has fright ened British industry badly and left what appears to be a strong asylum case in shreds.

A talkative and often humorous former physicist, educated partly in the United States, Mr Mas'ari, aged 49,

won his first British appeal against deportation earlier this year.
Under international asylum conventions, he cannot be returned to Saudi Arabia, where he was jailed in 1993. Britain's Immigration Ap-

neither could he be sent to Yemen, where he stayed for several months. Exile in Dominica seems a crude device, a modern replay of the colonial pique that sent Archbishop Makar-

is Tribunal declared that

ios of Cyprus into exile in the Seychelles in 1956. But, of course, the archbishop later became president. Mr Mas'ari may not be presidential material, but the Saudi government cannot yet rest easy — even if British | An idyll it may seem, but Dominica will not placate its new

guest. Edward **Pilkington** writes

SHE drags himself out of bed at dawn every morning to perform the first of five daily prayer rituals, Mohammed al-Mas'ari could be excused for asking: "Why in Allah's name did they send me to Dominica?'

The Caribbean island, all 290 square miles of it between Martinique and Guadeloupe, boasts a thriving community of Catholics about 85 per cent of its 72,000 population - and a smattering of Anglicans, Methodists and Pentecos talists. But where are Mr

Mas'ari's fellow Muslims? "Followers of Islam?" responded a bemused woman at the Dominican High Commission in London yesterday. "Not at all, not at all. Nothing to mention one or two individuals, but there is no predominance of Muslims in Dominica.'' With his faith uncatered

VENEZUELA _100 miles

elsewhere for spiritual sus-tenance. But other sources of comfort will be equally hard to reach.

He will have his work cut out, for instance, if he wishes to contact the Brit-ish authorities. Since Dominica's independence in 1978, the nearest outpost of British diplomacy has been in Barbados, an hour's

flight away. The traditional delight of Caribbean islands is also absent. "White sandy beaches? Oh no, we can't claim to have them," said the woman from the High for, Mr Mas'ari, who is Commission. "If you like



one

devout, may have to look | forest, or scuba-diving, What the island can boast

Iris and Louis, pummelled it last year. There is one consolation prize awaiting Mr Mas'ari if and when he steps off the

plane in the capital, Ro-

seau. The island was one of the first in the West Indies to receive the telephone. That will please Mr Mas'ari, who is renowned for promulgating his dissent via fax. So, if his expulsion is designed to silence him, the authorities may have to

think again.

is driven to despair by her brothers' insane plotting. Even when she tries to pray **Coma girl recovering** she kicks over the crucifix an grily. And when she cries. "I

Ecstasy taker out although Hille plays down the idea of innate nobility, she of intensive care unit, reports

Vivek Chaudhary OCTORS treating a young woman who slipped into a coma

that political and religious ab-solutism camouflage twisted sexuality. Paul Brennen's after taking an ecstasy tablet worldly Cardinal humiliates at a New Year's Eve disco said yesterday that she is Handy's lycanthropic Ferdinand is a bad case of arrested likely to make a full recovery. development, and even Nicola Redmond as the Cardinal's Helen Cousins. aged 19, was in a coma for two days, suffering a series of fits, and was breathing with the aid of a ventilator. She is now drifting in and out of consciousness, fancy-woman anally rapes George Anton's dour Bosola with a pistol. Donnellan clearly projects Webster's point — that the exercise of breathing on her own and has been transferred from the in-tensive care unit of Peterborpower is connected intimately with perversity and that these "wretched eminent things" ough district hospital to general ward.

live corrupt double lives. Effects are achieved with Michael Dronfield, who is treating her, said: "I think the great economy. Nick Ormer prognosis is now very good. We expect her to make a com-plete recovery. The next day od's set consists of swagged drapes and state chairs yet you get a pervasive sense of moral corruption. And nothwill be quite important." ing is more startling than the way the Duchess, after ber Miss Cousins' collapse fol-lows the death of Leah Betts, who never regained condeath, remains on stage and gazes with rapt pity on the accumulating violence. sciousness after taking ec-stasy at her 18th birthday party a few weeks before Christmas. This review appeared in later editions of yesterday's

Miss Cousins took the tablet while celebrating at Win-ners nightclub in Peterborough. She collapsed later, at a friend's house.

Before slipping into a coma. she had drunk seven litres of water trying to quench the thirst which ecstasy induces. Dr Dronfield said Miss Cousins put her life in danger by drinking too much water. The sodium level in her blood had dropped alarmingly, lead-

He said that people who took ecstasy thought it right to drink water to counter the dangers of dehydration in nightclubs and parties.
"It is not widely known that

What it does Stimulates the brain Ecstasy in the bloodstream reaches the brain here it is believed to cause a massive release known as 5HT or serotonin, 5HT is important ing mood, sleep, aggression, hunger and sexual activity. and lungs cause stimulation of the body's "fight or flight' respon blood pressure go up. oxygen is taken in by the lungs The risks

empathy and enhanced ser It may also inhibit orgasms in both

Many of the risks stem from the ces used to adulterate the tablets, but ecstasy itself is linked to panic attacks, dizziness fainting, vomiting, headaches and

been reported, and blood pressure changes could trigger sta rare response is a sudden and massive rise in body temperature and blood-clotting. This can lead to liver or kickney fallure, coma. convulsions and death.

cause is that it affects the kidneys ability to get rid of water." he added. Doctors believe that Leah

Betts died from drinking too

much water. An inquest into

her death was opened and adjourned on November 22. Miss Cousins' parents, Trevor and Janet, said yesterday: Helen is our only child and we are totally devastated by what has happened, "This could be your daugh-

ter, your son, your sister, your brother.
"Please, if you are tempted to take drugs and you are lis-

the problems ecstasy can | launched a nationwide campaign to warn youngsters about ecstasy, and Leah's picture was used in anti-drugs posters and leaflets. Her father, Paul Betts, sent

the Cousins a message of sup-

port, adding that Helen's case

"makes me wonder if we are getting through at all". He added: "We are wonder ing how many more young people have to become ill be fore the Government cracks down on ecstasy and other

drugs. Detective Superintendent Keith Chamberlin, of Cambridgeshire police, who is leading the hunt for the pushers who sold the drug to Miss Cousins, said: "It appears the message about taking drugs, particularly ecstasy, is not



Typical example assumes a satisfact rate of 2 14% on a £40,000 reparament morragage over 25 seats 1300 monito) on a gurchore price of £70,000, 300 monitole parameter of £16% for rot MIRAS or 15% out £1,45% after a 5,30% 1 year discount APR £25% transities, APR is based on the discounted state applicing for the term of the morragage. In practice, after the discounted rate period the Success's normal satisfact interest sere will applic That Structure Psychological (TAP) and the bounded rate period the Success's normal satisfact acts for both the Success and the boundered. I Solution touringspe come £100 excluding VAT (com-tion let of £40 Alumpaper subject to status and security 193.21 whatter unitgage one fills extraord resolutes time scheme acts for both the Society and the burnous; redemption to it has been proposed and an action of contrast and c

PLO police arrest Arab liberties activist

Derek Brown in Ramaliah

HE dismal human rights record of the self-rule Palestinian Authority has reached a new nadir with the illegal detention of a distinguished civil libertles activist Bassem Eid.

Mr Eid, who has campaigned for years against the quarters of Fon injustices of Israeli military

occupation, has more recently been an outspoken critic of the arbitrary rule of the Palestine Liberation Organisation in the autonomous parts of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Mr Eid was picked up from

his home in East Jerusalem late on Tuesday night and taken to the Ramallah headquarters of Force 17, a secuthere is evidence that one of

tening to this, think about it, Don't take the risk." They also appealed for in formation about who sold their daughter the drug. Miss Betts'

The Fleadh

Crownel: 30,000

Womad

Dage: World M Reading

яничес Тасьпо гли

Phoenix

Tribal Gathering

Where: Finsbury Park, Lond Born: 1990) Backer: Mean Fiddle

Health plans anger **GPs**

David Brindle, Social Services Correspondent

OCTORS are to protest that the British Medi-cal Association sent them promotional material for discount private health insurance at a time when it says it is battling to save the National Health Service.

Association members have received a letter on behalf of PPP Healthcare, a leading in-surer, saying that as doctors they are "probably more dis-cerning when it comes to healthcare needs".

The BMA defended its action, saying it has been in-

volved in private schemes since before the NHS was created. But critics question the wisdom of the promotion at a time when the service's future is under fierce debate.
John Collee, a doctor who

writes on medical matters for the Observer newspaper, said: "I think it is absolutely scandalous. Here we are, all furiously supporting the principles of the NHS, and yet here's the BMA inviting me to join PPP at reduced rates."

Sam Everington, an east London general practitioner and member of the BMA's ruling council, said he would raise the issue at next week's council meeting. 'It's highly hypocritical to be supporting the NHS on the one hand and promoting private medicine on the other. The defence will be that there is no reason why BMA members should not have the choice, but it's quite a different thing to be sending this stuff out."

The letter, distributed last month, encourages doctors to subscribe to one of three plans drawn up by PPP for BMA members. One offers particularly cheap rates on the basis that doctors do not charge each other, or each other's families. It does not therefore

cover specialist fees.

A BMA spokesman said the association had been party to similar schemes "since the year dot", although only a few of its 108,000 members took advantage. It was not opposed to private medicine, which did not damage the NHS in any way. "In the same way as any other professional organi-sation, all we are doing is offering cheaper rates on the

basis of a group scheme." PPP, formerly Private tients Plan, was started in 1940 by the BMA and four medical royal colleges. The NHS was created in 1948



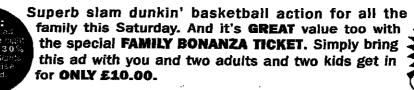
The way it was . . . festival-goers entering into the spirit of Glastonbury last year

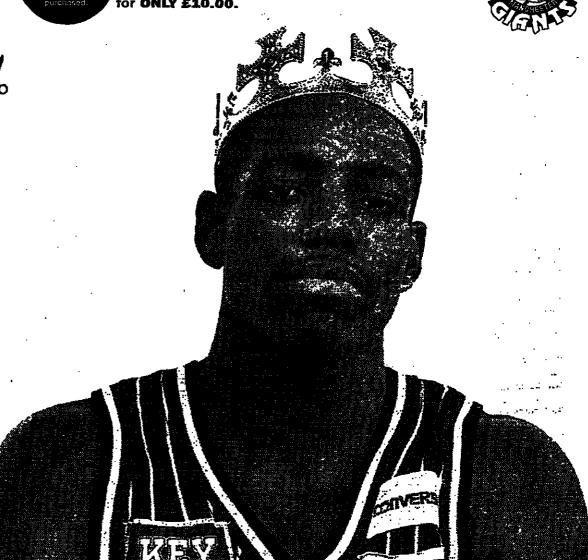
to have much of a chance in winning Wells. The previous Labour candidate came a poor third in 1992, polling just over 6.000 votes com-

show the Royals who's king this Saturday. The Manchester Giants v The Hemel Royals

Saturday 6th January, 7.30pm at the Nynex Arena Manchester. Superb slam dunkin' basketball action for all the

Watch the Giants





For more info freephone 0500 787 787

Glastonbury takes one-year break to regain hippy spirit

Festivals

of Britain

Monsters of Rock

T in the Park

A guide to the other big music

it hurts

LASTONBURY festival yesterday became a victim of its own mammoth success when its founder cancelled this year's event, say-ing it needed a rest to recapture its original hippy

Michael Eavis, the Somer-set farmer who has seen the festival grow in 25 years to become the biggest rock music event in Europe, said: "We're having a fallow year, having a rest — it's good farming practice."

Mr Eavis, aged 60, denied the decision was linked to his recent selection as the Labour candidate for Tory-held Wells at the next general election. He added that the next festival would take place in June

The gaping hole in this year's pop calendar is music to the ears of the big-time pro-moters, Mean Fiddler, who into the business and now control the four next highestprofile events, including

Phoenix and Reading. It will also be greeted with a from stor measure of relief by locals meditation. near Mr Eavis's Worthy Farm, at Pilton, near Shepton Mallet, not all of whom welcome the invasion of tens of thousands of people for the three-day event.

Last summer's festival was the busiest so far, with all 80,000 tickets sold and at least another 20,000 people who scaled the perimiter fence.

The cream of Britpop, such as Oasis and Pulp, played, and there were acres of fields containing activities ranging | recover and provide an oppor-



'It's nice to be a bit magical and mystical. Really, we want to take the festival's profile

Michael Eavis, farmer and Glastonbury host

back a little way'

Its success confirmed Glasthe most vibrant and diverse festivals in the world.

Mr Eavis said: "It's become very high profile, and that's a bit of a problem. I won't say we're going back to our hippy roots, but it's nice to be a bit magical and mystical about it. We want to take the profile of the festival back a bit."

from stone masonry to tonbury's reputation as one of

The break would give the farm and wildlife a chance to

tunity for those involved in the organisation to take

"It will also be a break for the people who don't like it— because they are pretty long suffering," he added.

Mr Eavis, a father of eight children from two marriages is treated with almost as much devotion by festival goers as the pop stars that perform. He is often seen driving around the site in his Land-Rover shaking people's

Bald with a bushy beard, he may look like an eccentric, but has a shrewd business brain in running the £4 million festival as well as his organic farm, which produces 8,000 pints of milk a day.

He said there had been no pressure to cancel the festival from either the police or the local authority, and both bodies had sounded disap-pointed when he informed them. "Normally I get done for something, but 1995 was the first time in six years that I have not been prosecuted,"

"In recent times we have had years off in 1988 and 1991 following problems in the fes In 1995 the well-publicised event of the fence coming down led to some problems, and these will have to be

resolved for future years." Graham Jeffs, chief executive of Mendip district coun-cil, said the decision to suspend the 1996 event would enable the council and the organisers to give further consideration to ways of controlling the perennial problem of the numbers attending the festival.

Charities will lose out from the festival's cancellation, es-

pecially Greenpeace, which uses the festival as a showcase for its campaigns. It also got the lion's share of the £450,000 which Mr Eavis donated to charity last year. Mr Eavis is not considered

pared with almost 22,000 for the Liberal Democrats and 28,620 for the victorious Tory,

Tycoon's death 'irrelevant' Lottery fever

Maxwell trial: Jury urged to look at media group's 'culture'

OBERT MAXWELL'S mysterious death at sea should be regarded as "accidental" and irrelevant to the innocence or guilt of his sons, an Old Bailey jury was told yesterday. Lord Justice Phillips, beginning his summing up in the 118-day trial, told jurors

that despite speculation that the media baron had committed suicide, the prosecution had offered no evidence for this, and no "adverse inference" could be drawn from it. It would not be enough to decide that it was "more likely than not" that the three accused — Kevin and Ian Maxwell, and Larry Trachtenberg, financial adviser to the Maxwell empire - were guilty. Jurors had to be

The three deny conspiring to defraud Maxwell pension funds by risking £22 million worth of shares in the Israeli pharmaceutical group, Teva, as collateral for Maxwell group loans. Kevin Maxwell alone denies conspiring with his father to defraud the pen-

sion fund, by misusing £100 million of shares in the Israeli printing group Scitex. Judge Phillips told jurors that if they believed Robert Maxwell had not been guilty of conspiracy, they had to acquit Kevin on the Scitex charge, since it took two to make a conspiracy. If jurors acquitted Kevin on the Teva charge, they also had to ac-

Crown's case against Kevin was its "foundation stone". The three defendants had been directors of Bishopsgate Investment Management (BIM), the Maxwell group pension company responsible for administering the funds for pensioners' benefit. But the judge said taking commercial risks with pension fund assets was not dishonest in it-self—the jury had to be cer-tain the defendants had known what they were doing

quit the others, since the

was dishonest. He added: 'If you put your money on an outsider at the Ascot races, you may be considered rash, but no one will suspect that you acted improperly and dishonestly. But if trustees risk pension fund Judge Phillips continues assets by putting them on summing up today.

pensions are being put at risk will have grounds for

complaint."

Judge Phillips said jurors needed to consider the "culture" of the Maxwell empire, where assets were frequently transferred between the group's companies, and in which Robert Maxwell had frequently used the funds in effect as a "private merchant bank". He said they needed to weigh up whether the defendants were so "infected" with this culture that they "lost sight of the implications of their conduct". In doing so jurors would need to consider

Kevin Maxwell's character. He went on: "I don't believe that any of you, having seen Mr Maxwell in the witness box for about 21 days, can have been left in any doubt about his very considerable

Reminding jurors that Kevin Maxwell had admitted lying to officials from the Bank of Nova Scotia, the judge said the impression given by a witness was "not an infallible guide to truthful-ness". But jurors should not conclude: "He's told lies, why should we believe a word he says? He must be guilty."

conjures up tale of £14m 'lousy bet'

Continued from page 1 on Saturday evening. Then you would need more people to place the tickets in time. To win the Virginia lottery. Mr Mandel's syndi-cate used 30 computers, 12 accountants and a para-

trooper to oversee security.
While attempts have been made to buy every sequence on the Irish Lotto which requires only five winning numbers out of 36 possibilities — the UK version was designed to have too many permutations.

"A £14 million outlay

could guarantee a jackpot, but not an exclusive jackpot win," a Camelot spokes-woman said. One rollover prize last January pro-duced 133 jackpot winners, who each won just £122,510.

The lottery monitors sales patterns at all 26,000 outlets in the UK. Nothing suspicious has emerged. 'If we noticed anything odd ... we would stop it," the spokeswoman said. "Anyway, if the winning ticket is bought as part of an operation to cover every number, we are not liable to pay out." Some odds.

Three Dublin contract-killer style assassinations in just one day prompted the government's justice minister, Nora Owen, to issue a statement in response to newspaper reports that the capital is "on the brink of mob war".

David Sharrock

G2 page 4

With parts of Scotland and North-east still without water some firms are forced to shut down but Government rules out immediate cash aid

Insurers face huge burst pipes bill

Martin Wainwright and David Ward

insurance market is facing the new burden of an estimated £500 million bill for damage caused by burst pipes and disrupted

new year thaw. Continuing cut-offs in Scotland and the North-east threaten to push the cost of nancial disaster" if the first the chaos higher, with fish processing in Aberdeen, comouter chip manufacturing in Strathclyde and small firms in Northumberland facing ex-tended holidays or forced to

ters were cagey about)

whether that would include substantial funding. Army tankers have been deployed to help supply parts of Scot-land — working in tandem with loaned whisky lorries and more than 30,000 people in the worst-affected areas are still without water after up to five days.

The Scottish Office minister, Raymond Robertson, offered emergency talks on a visit to Aberdeen, where fishing companies warned of "fimarket of the new year is un-able to go ahead today. He agreed that financial help was an issue which will have to be faced" but ruled out immediate talks on funds.

Suspend production.

The Government last night offered talks with local auget water supplies back to normal in homes, hospitals and industry."

Insurance offices in Scot-

As THE row raged over | £567,000 to the expected has nodded through Lyon-the water companies | remuneration package of naise's bid. performance, it emerged last night that three of the directors of Northumbrian Water have received confirmation that they will share profits of over £1 million from their share options as a result of the successful French takeover bid for the

firm, writes Michael White. Lyonnaise des Eaux's takeover is set to add Trade Secretary, Ian Lang,

and Manchester have been in-undated with claims. Some householders are videoing flood damage and pressing ahead with expensive repairs, including hiring de humidifying machines, which were worst-hit areas by last night. Big claims are expected from

£205,000 for Northumbrian's chief executive. David Cranston, in 1996. Labour revealed last night. Analysis done for the shadow chancellor, Gordon

Taylor, the group finance director, will gain £492,238 as a result of executive share options, now that the

schools in Bradford, which is already struggling to finance an estimated £48 million school repair programme,

were severely damaged. The image of the privatises water companies took another battering as water tankers were delayed and leak repairs went into the fourth For an executive director,

Jon Hargreaves, the deal will be worth £277,112 in share options on top of his salary and performance-related bonus of up to 30 per cent. Since remuneration committees are meant to take into account "any ing unacceptable quality of £1 millionservice", Mr Brown's team prospect.

ous fault with emergency

Ofwat said that exceptional weather had caused the prob lems, although a detailed analysis of firms' responses would not be possible until

It is unlikely to pursue

will raise their concerns in | and things aren't being put the Finance Bill later this

The bid became unconditional on December 28 when the French firm, which already owns North East Water, announced it had received acceptances for its offer to buy 60 per cent of Northumbrian's capital. That clinched the £1 million share option

that staff cutbacks had left the companies unable to tackle the crisis properly.

Mr Dobson said: "The

water companies have been getting rid of staff, at all sorts of levels and in all sorts of jobs, and I think that means that in crises like this one when it's all hands to the

right as quickly as they

But Ofwat denied that there had been significant man-power reductions in the industry and said that shortage of staff had not been a problem in tackling leaks.

People affected by cut-offs will receive compensation payments of £10 per 24 hours without supply from the companies, which will be required to make the payments from profits and not by increasing customer charges.
The biggest payouts are expected in Ashington and Newbiggin on the Northumberland coast, where Northumbrian Water said

yesterday that it could not guarantee all reconnections before the weekend.

side. The multiple cracking of al mains affected — has largely affected Victorian systems which put their faith in cast iron. Gradually being replaced by modern flexible plastic or ductile iron, the ancient pipes have been reliable workhorses but are vulnerable to extreme changes of

temperature. The Water Services Associ-ation said that temperatures in the North-east had gone from 10C to 3C on Monday night, imposing huge strains on the pipes and causing fracturing earth movements. The freeze had already expanded the water and contracted the metal, leading to cracks at vulnerable junctions.

efore the weekend the situation was improving rapidly, except in the Northremain reduced today on east, where progress was parts of Tyneside and Wear-slower.

Four stabbed in JobCentre attack

Gary Younge

with knives and screwdrivers, yester rampaged through a JobCentre in south-east London, stabbing four people in an apparently motiveless attack.

Police arrested a 27-year-old local woman at the centre in bings, which left two people seriously injured. She is being held in hospital where she is receiving treatment for hand and wrist injuries incurred during the incident. Police said there were no plans to either interview or charge her before today.

Police arrived at the scene in Bexlevheath shortly before llam to find Simon Bridge. aged 24, with a large carving knife embedded in his head. Police said the blade had bounced off his skull and lodged in the scalp.

"It was sticking out at an angle. The man was caim but said acting sergeant Ian

Mr Bridge, an unemployed | through the building assault- | blood."

electrician, from Welling, ing staff. "The second she got south-east London, was taken in people were running out. It to Queen Mary's hospital, Sid-cup, where he was being kept overnight for observation.

His girlfriend, Tara Hill, aged 20, said after visiting him: "He told me he went to join the queue and a woman came from behind and at-

"He said it didn't feel like someone was stabbing him in the head - more like someone punching him.

A 49-year-old man who worked in the Jobcentre was last night undergoing surgery for a "substantial" injury to his right arm.

Two women suffered minor head injuries — a 63-year-old member of staff was expected to be released from hospital yesterday evening while a member of the public, aged 34, was not detained after

reatment.
A spokeswoman for Queen Mary's hospital said none of the injuries were thought to be life-threatening. Witnesses said a woman

first attacked members of the public, and then wandered

in people were running out. It was chaos. They were run-ning out all over the street. The traffic was blocked," said

Larry Hailmus, a shop owner Superintendent Philip Sel leyheath area, did not know if the woman was targeting any one in particular and would not comment on suggestions that she had been resident in a mental institution.

Detectives also refused to comment on witness claims that the attacker had visited the JobCentre the previous day trying to obtain a Giro payment, and said they had yet to establish a motive.

Witnesses said that as the emergency services arrived the woman screamed abuse but then stood passively while the police handcuffed driven away.

Acting sergeant Wheeler eral weapons. I have seen at least two knives and two When I arrived there were lots of knives and lots of



The JobCentre in Bexleyheath where a woman wielding knives attacked several people, leaving two seriously injured

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Byelection battle commences

Prescott sets date for first of hoped-for poll victories

Rebecca Smithers Political Correspondent

ABOUR stepped up its pressure on John Major by announcing that it will hold a byelection in the safe Labour seat of Hemsworth in Yorkshire early next month.

The date was given by Labour's deputy leader, John Prescott, as he named its can-didate for a second byelec-tion, in Staffordshire South East, triggered by the death last month of the Conservative MP Sir David Lightbown Conservative sources said yesterday that the party planned to hold the byelection towards the end of March.

A clearer timetable for the two byelections - which Labour intends to use further to undermine the Govern ment in the wake of the defection of Emma Nicholson could well galvanise the divided Conservatives into rallying behind their leader. Mr Prescott confirmed that Labour's Staffordshire candidate was Brian Jenkins, the

worth borough council. He

fought the seat in the 1992 | Labour holds election and moved Labour from third to second place. Mr Jenkins, son of a coal miner, declared that he was "delighted and proud to fight for Labour". Bemsworth was held for

Labour by Derek Enright with a 22,075 majority until his death last November. As well as retaining this seat, Labour is expecting to over-turn Sir David Lightbown's 7,192 majority in Staffordshire, shrinking the Government's majority to one.

However, Mr Prescott in-sisted that Labour was not complacent. "At no time can we just rely on the unpopularity of the Tories," he said during a visit to party officials in Tamworth. "We must convince people that Labour offers a better future for them and their families.

Overseeing the Staffordshire campaign will be Labour leader Tony Blair's parliamentary private secretary, Bruce Grocott, MP for the Wrekin, and Peter Snape (West Bromwich East), chair-man of the West Midlands group of Labour MPs.

If the Tories lose the Staffordshire seat, they lose Tamworth. Now a sprawling outpost of Birmingham, Tamworth is the town that spawned the modern Conservative Party more than 150 years ago when Sir Robert Peel delivered his famous Tamworth manifesto

fire on Scargill despite calls for his expulsion

Michael White Political Editor

ABOUR last night adopted a wait-and-see attitude towards Arthur Scargill's threatened left-wing breakaway, after it emerged that his new party's draft constitution would effectively exclude many potential allies on the left. Reports that the constitu-

tion of the Socialist Labour Party will enjoin members not to "join or support" other political groupings surprised some leftwingers and drew derision from mainstream supporters of Tony Blair's New Labour modernisation.

Mr Blatr's deputy, John Prescott, said Mr Scargill's efforts were "a lot of huffing and puffing".

But Labour officials refused to be stampeded by

calls to expel Mr Scargill National Union o Union Mineworkers' leader, for breaching a fundamental organisational rule — en-forced against Militant in the 1980s — that members of parties within Labour, or of avowed parties which fight elections against it, should be kicked out.

"People are entitled to be involved in talks," a senior official observed, while confirming that if Mr Scar-gill and his allies went ahead with the SLP launch in May he would effectively count himself out".

Labour MPs like David Winnick, whose local socialist group in Walsali was recently expelled, have called for Mr Scargill's expulsion. Yesterday such frustration was echoed by Kim Howells, MP for Pontypridd, a former NUM official and opponent of Mr Scargill over the 1984/85 miners' strike.

But Campaign Group MP Alice Mahon voiced the regrets of other leftwing MPs that he intends to leave. "I think there is only one party for socialists and that's the Labour Party," I she said on BBC Radio 4's World at One.

Mr Howells called Mr Scargill a megalomaniac who should be expelled if his party goes ahead. He pre-dicted it would boost Labour all sorts of nutters".

Yesterday's reports describe a constitution which includes Labour's abandoned Clause 4 on common

Royal Opera move in jeopardy

Arts Correspondent

OME of the world's leading opera singers were feeling the effects of at least one of life's most stressful experiences last night when their attempt to move

house fell through. First the Royal Opera House decided to decamp temporarily from its Covent Garden home for redevelopment work, for which it has received a £55 million lottery grant. The company decided to move to a £27 million theatre to be built south of Tower Bridge for two seasons from September 1997.

Yesterday Greater London

theatre when the opera house returned to Covent Garden at the turn of the century, but it has turned it down. "The opera house will have

to build at Tower Bridge and

"There must be a chance

that the theatre won't be built

at all now, but we still antici-

pate that the thing will go for-ward," said Martin Large, joint managing director of

It had been hoped that Dis-

ney would take over the

deadline.

somewhere else for the whole find a second partner in time period," Mr Large said. The GLE was talking to sevmeet the opera house's

eral other potential tenants in the fields of commerce and entertainment.

Keith Cooper, the opera house's director of corporate affairs, said: "We don't feel so much let down as realistic. The GLE appeared to be very optimistic about the possibility of finding a second tenant but we have a rigid timetable which will involve us in considerable cost if there is a

delay.
"If you take a product out of "The opera house will have the market place for even a to find something else for a short time it's bloody difficult relatively short period of to re-establish yourself, and

Enterprise, which heads the time, perhaps three months, you incur incredibly high consortium behind the to cover for the delay or find redundancy and start-up theatre, said it had failed to somewhere else for the whole costs." costs.

The opera house was looking at touring and the possibility of performing in a number of London venues, such as the Albert Hall, the Royal Festival Hall and Sadler's Wells, if a single base could not be

found. The only London theatre available from September 1997 was the Dominion. "But only one of the productions in our current repertoire would fit on its stage, the audito-rium is inadequate and so are the sight-lines," said Mr

"It's all right for a West End show but it's not great for

Cooper

Country ranks 35th in education table among developed states

Plan to lift UK from place as 'dunce of the world'

10-YEAR plan to lift Britain from its place as the dunce of the outlined yesterday by the Government's former senior education adviser.

Sir Geoffrey Holland, former permanent secretary at the Department for Education, proposed a £1 billion programme to raise achievement over the next 10 years. He said Britain had slipped from 14th to 18th in a league of global competitiveness because of the quality of the work force and the inade-quate education system.

In terms of skill the work force had slipped from 21st to 24th, while in education the UK was ranked 35th in the world despite spending more than many competitors, he told the North of England education conference in

Sir Geoffrey, vice-chancel lor of Exeter university, told local authorities they would have to improve achievement in schools and colleges by 30

"We are not well equipped for the 21st century, where survival depends on applied intelligence. It is time for a national crusade to raise achievement'

With two-thirds of public spending going to social security, education was fighting for scraps from the table. The central fact of life is that there will not be great addi-tional resources for education available from the public

Despite £27 billion spent on education and £35 billion ers, Britain was slipping be-hind the competition. "We are hurtling now towards a 21st century in which the jobs available will be jobs that robots cannot do and where our survival, both economically and socially, depends on applied intelligence, enterprise, initiative, flexibility and ability to survive rapid

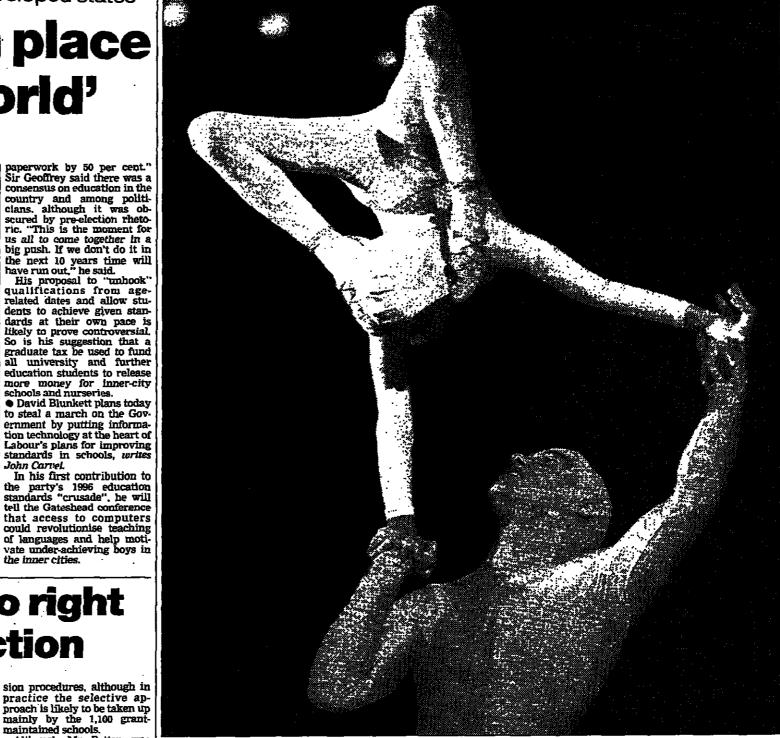
change.
"We are not well equipped and it is time for a national crusade to raise achievement

country and among politi-cians, although it was ob-scured by pre-election rheto-ric. "This is the moment for us all to come together in a big push. If we don't do it in the next 10 years time will have run out," he said. His proposal to "unhook" qualifications from age-related dates and allow stu-He said A levels should be scrapped as no longer rele-vant. Vocational and acadents to achieve given standemic qualifications should

be amalgamated and taken dards at their own pace is likely to prove controversial. So is his suggestion that a whenever candidates reached a certain standard rather all university and further education students to release rid of the stigma of failure. He urged schools and local authorities to dismiss bad teachers and tackle the 30 per more money for inner-city schools and nurseries. cent of lessons found to be un- David Blunkett plans today satisfactory by inspectors to steal a march on the Gov

over many years. "We should expect more of teachers, pay them better, value them more ernment by putting information technology at the heart of Labour's plans for improving highly in terms of status . . but simply not be willing to tolerate poor performance." John Carrel. In turn, teachers, heads and governors should be freed

the party's 1996 education standards "crusade", he will that access to computers could revolutionise teaching of languages and help moti-vate under-achieving boys in



Air and graceful ... Performers of the Cirque du Soleil, which opens its show Saltimbanco at the Royal Albert Hall tomorrow with its blend of performance art, theatre, circus and hi-tech arena rock and roll

Shephard 'heading far to right of Patten' on pupil selection

John Carvel

ABOUR yesterday accused Gillian Shephard, Education and Employment Secretary, of lurching far to the right of her predecessor, John Patten, in advancing proposals to allow state schools to select pupils by interviewing parents and children.

"Parents will no longer choose their school; instead, schools will pick the parents and pupils," said David Blunkett, shadow education secretary. "This abandonment of parental choice is a last desperate lurch to the right in a bid by Mrs Shephard to save face for the Prime Minister.

He was responding to the juardian's disclosure that to publish a consultation weed out undesirable pupils.

paper next week proposing to Mr Bhinkett said opposi-

mmena



lift the ban that prevents com-Guardian's disclosure that prehensive schools from Mrs Shephard's proposal staff cuts during Mrs Shephard was preparing screening their intake to would allow all state schools squeeze on budgets.

scrap Mr Major's plan to allow church schools to opt for grant-maintained status without a parental ballot. Lack of interest among banks and building societies had to privatise student loans. Now Gillian Shephard is even abandoning John Pat-

from the deluge of paperwork

"We are drowning in paper-work and over-regulation. We

ment and quangos down-

ten's guidelines on admis-sions to salvage something of the Prime Minister's inept Birmingham speech."

Mr Major told grant-main-

tained school heads at Birthey needed greater freedom on admissions policy make sensible choices between pupils in the way you

to use reports or interviews Mr Bhinkett said opposi- as part of their formal admis-

tion by the Anglican and | sion procedures, although in Roman Catholic churches practice the selective ap-was forcing Mrs Shephard to proach is likely to be taken up proach is likely to be taken up maintained schools.

Although Mr Patten was considered right wing on educational theories, he warned schools in 1993 against using sions, lest they be "vulnerable to criticism that judgments about a child's suitability were based on social, ethnic or academic considerations."

harder to persuade parents to pay for essential books and equipment and not just optional extras, the National Confederation of Parent Teacher Associations said yesterday. Some parents had been asked to contribute to

'Peg libel awards to injury payouts'

OVES were an nounced yesterday V anned at reforming legal system in which a mil-lionaire pop star can receive £350,000 damages for remarks staff cuts during last year's about his diet while an acciient victim gets £22,500 for the trauma of losing an eye. The Law Commission ac-

epted that compensation paid for the suffering caused by serious personal injuries had fallen behind inflation

and should be increased.
It recommended that judges should urge libel juries to us these payments as a guideline, and suggested a £125,000 limit on defamation awards, close to the ceiling for per sonal injury awards.

In a consultation paper, it said: "A-libel plaintiff may recover a much larger sum for an injury to his reputation — which may prove transient than the damages awarded for the pain and suffering to the victim of an industrial ac cident who has lost an eye.

We accept the force of [public] criticism that it is **Damages**

LOSS of one eye (minimum recommended compensation): 1960s, £2.750; 1994 (with inflation), £25,394; 1994 (actual), £22,500

1960s, around £2,000; 1994 (with inflation), £18,293; 1994 (actual), £16.000 Loss of main hand: 1960s

£2,500; 1994 (with inflation), £25,000-£35,000; 1994 (actual), £25,493

Leg injury reducing mobility: 1960s, £3,000; 1994 (with inflation), £30,188; | idle black bastard"

convey the impression that | attention in defamation cases | cials expect this judgment to reputations are valued more highly than lives and limbs." Further high, unpredictundermine all efforts to make injury payments fairer, the commission said, because damaging comparisons would

It recommended that

1994 (actual), £22,500-|Libel jury awards: 1989.

Paraplegia: 1978, £35,000; 1994 (with inflation). £104,165: 1994 (actual). £95,000

Quadriplegia: 1985. £75,000; 1994 (with infla-Loss of taste and smell; tion), £114,502; 1994 tual), £105,000-£125,000

> Very severe brain injury: 1961, £15,000; 1994 (with inflation), £171,853; 1994 (actual), £105,000-£125,000

Racial discrimination awards: £30,000 for being called an "Irish prat";

to damages being awarded for be treated as a precedent. non-pecuniary loss in personal injury cases'

It voiced delight that the appeal court introduced this yardstick last month in reducing, from £350,000 to £75,000, Elton John's damages

against the Sunday Mirror for

an untrue article about his di-

after appeal); 1995, £750,000 Mirror Group Newspapers (settled for £100,000 after

£1.5m for Lord Aldington against Count Nikolai Tol-

stoy and his publisher; 1991, £250,000 for Esther Rantzen against Mirror

Group ... Newspapers (reduced to £110,000 on ap-peal); 1994, £1.48m for a

yacht firm against Yachting

World (settled for £760,000

appeal); December 1995, appeal court reduced Elton John's £350,000 Sunday Mirror damages to £75,000 after comparison with percalled an "Irish prat"; sonal injury damages — an-£15,000 for being called "an ticipating the commission's

> The highest personal injury award for non-financial loss is £130,000 to a brain-damaged woman who has lost the ability to walk, cry. laugh or speak but is fully conscious and aware of her situation. The Government set up the Law Commission 30 years ago

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ts and any income from them can fall as well as rise and you may not ger back the full amount you invested. Past performance is The value of investments and any income much use and chair value will depend on your circumstances. Save & Prosper Group Limited is regulated by not a guide to the future. Tax concessions can change and chairs on the products and contract and contract to the future. nure. Tax concessions can climing and in the products and services offered by the Fleming and Save & Prosper Marketing Group.

Jobs shake-up in Whitehall

Richard Norton-Taylor and lan Black

RITAIN'S key intelligence co-ordinating job is to go to the chief policy adviser to Sir Leon Brit-tan, the UK's senior European Commissioner, in a wideranging shake-up of White-hall posts.

Colin Budd, a career diplomat, is to return from Brussels to replace Paul Lever a chairman of the Joint Intelli-gence Committee. Mr Lever becomes economic director at the Foreign Office with special reponsibility for Britain's relations with its Euro nean Union partners.

Mr Budd, aged 50, served in the British embassy in Bonn before moving to Brussels as 1993. He will also have responsibilities in the running of the Cabinet's important overseas and defence policy

The intelligence committee ssesses raw intelligence and sets priorities for the Secret Intelligence Service, better known as MI6, and for GCHQ. the Government's electronic eavesdropping centre.

Mr Lever, respected by ministers for his hard-headed approach to difficult probiems, will be responsible for drawing up options and negotiating tactics as the Government prepares to face federalist demands from EU partners in the run-up to the inter-governmental conference later

He replaces Michael Jay, who is to be appointed ambas-sador to Paris, another key post in the EU context. Chris-topher Meyer, a German-speaking career diplomat who is currently John Major's chief press spokesman, is widely tipped to become ambassador in Bonn.

Meanwhile, Roderic Lyne, a private secretary in Downing Street, who played a key role in negotiations with Dublin over the Irish peace talks, is leaving to take up a job with British Gas. He will be succeeded by John Holmes, another For-

eign Office official. The moves, some of which are expected to be officially announced next week, leave an question mark over the future of Pauline Neville-Jones, made a Dame in the new year's honours list.

She is to be replaced as the Foreign Office's political director by Jeremy Greenstock. Dame Pauline, aged 56, who

was Britain's representative on the now defunct Bosnia contact group, had hoped to-be given the Paris embassy. David Gore-Booth has been appointed British High Commissioner to India in succession to Sir Nicholas Fenn who is retiring from the Diplomatic Service, the Foreign Office announced yesterday. Mr Gore-Booth, British ambassador to Saudi Arabia, is being replaced in Riyadh by Andrew Green, currently in charge of Middle East policy in London.

Dog attack boy dies of injuries

David Ward

N 11-YEAR-OLD boy who was mauled by two rottweiler dogs on Christmas Eve died in hospi-

David Kearney, from Dar-wen, Lancashire, had been on a life support system at Booth Hall children's hospital in Manchester, after surgery on his face and having part of his

left leg amputated. David's parents, Keith and Margaret Kearney, spent Christmas at his bedside. A family friend said: "They knew how badly he was injured but they had been hoping he would pull through.

Everyone is terribly upset Mr Kearney said that, after discussions with doctors, he and his wife had decided to switch off the life support machine. "We have lost our son and we now just want to be left alone to grieve.

yard where the dogs were kept. His sister, Amanda, aged 14. said. "One of the dogs came over. He tried to make friends with it but it went for his shoulder and head." His mother said afterwards

In addition to needing ex-tensive surgery, David had also been receiving kidney di-

alvsis and had been fighting

The boy had climbed over a fence near his home into the

the threat of pneumonia.

that his face was blown up like a balloon, and he was so badly marked she hardly recognised him. The dogs' owner, Kevin Taylor, a builder, asked for

them to be destroyed.
"They are not guard dogs

trained to attack people," he said. "They are pets but they are also here to look after my

Police have questioned Mr Turner and a report has been

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Christians bear another cross

ment jobs by quota.
The Churches began

manding their share in No-

vember with a two-week cam-

paign unsuccessfully calling

on parliament to consider the plight of Dalit converts to

"We are in a society, we

cannot escape society," said Father Devadhas, director of social work at New Delhi's

Church cannot play a big role

in economic development. We

are a secular state, and it's

the government's job."
The Church argues that

even though Dalits embraced

Converted untouchables are claiming the same special rights as other disadvantaged Indians, writes Suzanne Goldenberg in New Delhi

versity places Church leaders are demanding special treatment for their congregations, on the grounds that they face

Positive discrimination, known as "reservation", is a highly emotive issue in India, where liberalisation has in-tensified the struggle for economic survival.

It promises to be central to the next general election, expected in April: Muslims — Dalits, State governments in and now Christians — clam-

TH competition | ouring for the rights the con-lierce for unitaged Hindus.

More than 40 years ago the constitution set aside a proportion of university places and civil service jobs for Dalit (formerly untouchable) Hindus and tribal peoples.

The reservation system originally applied only to Hindus but under pressure from other communities the gov-ernment has extended it to Buddhists and Sikhs of Dalit origin. In the past 10 years it has come to include other

Christianity many years ago, they have not been able to escape caste prejudice, so they should be entitled to the same Souza. the leader of Delhi's wing Hindu Bharatiya Janata Party.

In a Christmas message, the should be entitled to the same interdenominational group party, although it is the tradibenefits as Dalit converts to Buddhism and Sikhism and all disadvantaged Hindus.

Leaders of the affirmative action protest will meet this month to decide whether to issue a call from the pulpits in favour of a specific party at the elections.

Meanwhile a black flag has been flying over the Sacred Heart, high above the heads of the little girls dressed like wedding cakes and the street vendors who normally crowd Delhi's churches at this time

"For 45 years we waited, we tolerated. But now the Dalit Christians themselves are taking up the leadership. I the launch of their campaign, don't think we can resist withdrew her support after this," said Father Charles De being criticised by the right-

The ruling Congress (I) interdenominational group campaigning for the Dalit Christians said: "The Chris-tians of India had expected a tional repository of the mi-nority vote, is wary of endorsing the Dalit Christian happier Christmas. They demand for fear of alienating Hindu voters. But a regional trusted in the parliamentary democracy and placed their faith in the words of honourparty has already promised to extend the quota system to Muslims, who are economiable men like the prime mincally worse off than the ister of India and hoped that a bill to right the 45-year-old wrong of denying the Chris-tians of Scheduled Caste [Da-Hindu majority.
Although the Catholic Church is fighting for the lit] origin their constitutional

16 per cent of its congregation who are Dalits or descendants rights will be introduced. However, the message seems to be ... their voice won't be of Dalits, it has not yet erased caste discrimination in its Dalit Christians received a Some churches, in the further setback when Mother Teresa, who had appeared at

south especially, still seat Dalits in separate pews, and have segregated cemeteries. There are few Dalits in the upper ranks of the hierarchy.

News in brief

Dini faces threat from Italian right

THE Italian right yesterday undertook to press for the fall of Lamberto Dini's non-party "government of experts", but stopped short of moving a motion of no confidence.

Parliamentary party leaders decided that a debate on the Parliamentary party leaders decided that a debate on the country's political future, called for by President Oscar Luigi Scalfaro, should begin next Tuesday. It is likely to take up to three days. With Italy occupying the presidency of the European Union, the proceedings will be watched with keen interest in Brussels

The chances of Mr Dini's unelected administration surviving next week's debate receded last night when two leftwing parties, Communist Refoundation and the Greens, called for its removal. If they were to vote with a united right, they could bring down the government. — John Hooper, Rome.

Black Watch-Triad link denied

THE British Forces Hong Kong Garrison yesterday denied that investigations are under way into links between soldiers serving in the Black Watch Regiment and organised crime syndicates.

"No soldiers from that regiment have been brought back to Hong Kong for interview in connection with that or any other investigation to the connection of the properties of impurposity from processibles." nong rong for interview in comection with that or any other investigation. No certificate of immunity from prosecution has been issued to any member of the Black Watch by the police, who have no right to do so. We have today confirmed that the Director of Public Prosecutions, who does have this power, has also not issued any such certificate of immunity," a statement said.

Drug baron 'is co-operating'

THE world's most wanted herom trafficker, Khun Sa, is cooperating with Burmese government forces occupying his former headquarters near the border with Thailand, hardening suspi-cions he has cut a deal with Rangoon's ruling generals to let him

Khun Sa was reported by sources linked to his Mong Tai Army yesterday to have remained in Homong supervising the handover of weapons to government troops. "The traitor is being well protected by Burmese troops after persuading us to surrender to

them," one former MTA officer commented.

The Burmese government and state-run media have made no mention of an event Rangoon residents expected them to trumpet as a victory. — Nick Cumming-Bruce, Bangkok.

Perry offers kidnap help

THE United States defence secretary, William Perry, gave a guarded promise yesterday of Nato help in the peace crisis posed by the Bosnian Serbs' seizure of 16 Muslims travelling through

After meeting the Bosnian president, Alija Izetbegovic, and commanders of the Nato-led implementation force (I-FOR) in Sarajevo, Mr Perry said it was important that the proposed United Nations controlled police force should be established "as soon as possible", adding: "In the meantime, Nato's force will do what it can to assist."

Mr Perry bad earlier told reporters it was not Nato's job to be a police force, implying that the incident was seen as a criminal rather than a military matter.

The Bosnian Serb authorities refused to release the 16 and told Nato that some of them might be tried. Meanwhile, two British soldiers were injured when they stumbled on a landmine or an unexploded shell in Sarajevo yesterday. an I-FOR spokesman said. — *Reuter, Sarajevo.*



Hostile elements . . . Russians struggle in severe weather to burn off and clean up a 1,000-tonne oil spill from a river-bed pipeline in the central republic of Yashkiria

Agency banned 'for criticism'

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A Gift

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The charity Médecins Sans Frontières (Doctors without Borders), one of 43 aid agencies expelled from Rwanda, said yesterday that its French wing was thrown out for reporting atrocities committed by the authorities.

MSF's president, Philippe Biberson, told a news conference that the "real reason was...our testimony on the serious attacks affecting the people we were working with".

The Rwandan government ordered the foreign aid agencies out of the country last month on grounds they had failed to register and said they had to leave their country behind. Delice serious of the country last month on grounds they had failed to register and said they had to leave their equipment behind. Police confiscated 16 of their ambulances and other vehicles.

Mr Biberson said MSF's French wing had been working with Hutu refugees. "Not a day went by without our hearing testimony about people disappearing, being assassinated, or being forced to leave the country again in fear for their lives and those of their

leave the country again in fear for their lives and those of their families." — Reuter, Paris.

Ploughman's hunch

PLOUGHING at night can dramatically reduce the number of weeds competing with farm crops, a US government study said. "We have seen reductions in weed emergence as great as 80 percent" after ploughing in the dark, said Douglas Buhler of the agriculture department's Agricultural Research Service. "Generally reductions are 50 to 60 percent."

agriculture department is Agricultural Research Service. Generally reductions are 50 to 60 per cent."

If initial results are confirmed, nighttime ploughing "has the potential to reduce reliance on chemicals in weed management," Mr Buhler told Agricultural Research magazine. The theory is simple enough: light penetrates the soil as it is being turned, allowing buried weed seeds to break out of dormancy. With some types of weeds, denying light at the time of ploughing reduces sprouting. — AP. Washington.

US embassies feel the pinch

Jonathan Freedland in Washington

HE United States budget crisis escalated from a national to an international emergency yesterday, as Day 19 of the partial government shutdown prompted US officials abroad to deny that America had become a banana republic, unable to

As President Clinton and Republican congressional leaders began yet another round of talks, their failure to agree on a budget plan threatened key operations abroad as well as essential services at

The state department reported near-chaos as cashstarved embassies around the world were forced to scale back their activities.

Vietnam has threatened to

cut off electricity to the US embassy in Hanoi because of an unpaid bill for \$1,600 (£1,000). US diplomats in Moscow have dipped into a charity fund to pay local workers, and embassy officials in Ha-vana are without drinking water - after the local supply company cancelled all deliv-

"We just don't have any cash," said Richard Moose. an undersecretary at the state department — one of nine government departments cation and environmental which have still not had their programmes.

1996 budgets approved. The affected government are feeling direct hardship, agencies have had to get by Businesses which depend on federal workers have been sent home without pay, while 500,000 more have been required to work for free.

boiled over, with vital services, including environmental clean-up teams and benefits offices, suspended. But overseas the shutdown has created huge embarrassment. At the American embassy in Paris, usually a social

shutdown has forced the can-cellation of all entertainment. Ambassador and former Washington grande dame Pamela Harriman has even been barred from travelling

to routine ceremonies. Similar belt-tightening has been imposed at the US em-bassy in London, with a pay and expenses freeze in force. House Republicans yester-day refused to back a Senate move to release temporary funds to reopen the federal government while talks continue. Radical House members said they wanted to "stay the course" and use the shutdown as a source of pressure

US diplomats in Moscow dipped into charity funds to pay local staff

plans t<u>o be</u>lance the federal

budget by the year 2002. The Republican plan features a \$245 billion tax cut which Mr Clinton rejects. premiums pensioners pay for their health insurance. Republicans say Mr Clinton's plan spends too much on edu-

Public employees say they

with no money and skeleton government workers are also staffing. More than 280,000 feeling the squeeze, along with 200,000 applicants for passports which cannot be issued. A backlog of 30,000 visa applications by non-Americans is growing daily. sentment at home has The US budget deadlock could keep Brazil out of next week's Gold Cup football tournament in Los Angeles. US consulates are refusing to issue the players with visas because of the cutback in services worldwide, the Brazilwhirl, the unprecedented ian Soccer Federation said.



Lucky dip . . . A Tokyo bargain hunter buys a fukubukuro (lucky bag) filled with cut-price goods. It is a tradition for Japanese stores to sell the bags to launch the new year's business. This department store sold 5,000 of them yesterday at £65 apiece PHOTOGRAPH: SHIZUO KAMBAYASHI

English knight errant drew wine from the Dragon hills

Seth Falson in Shazikou

THE craggy hills around the little town of Shazikou are called the Nine Dragons. For centuries peasants have struggled to grow grain on their slopes. But some have found a new job: they grow grapes for a winery that produces some of the best wine in

bottles of Chardonnay and Riesling are carried by van down the winding roads

1.00

gerie in de des der

heavy soil 13 years ago. Michael Parry did not live to see their success. His

rupted him, and in 1991 he died of cancer. "He was a man who could not be stopped," said Wu Lizhu, the company's chief wine-taster. "He had an

£600.000 investment bank-

say they owe their fortune to the efforts of a stubborn Chinese who, until recently, preferred a 100-proof sorghum-based alcohol once described as tasting like aviation fuel. Nevertheless, the 100,000

cases that the Huadons Winery is producing this year falls short of demand. Mr Wu — who did not even know wine was made from grapes before be asked for a job at Huadong — says: "If

for a British insurance company, first visited China in the late 1970s after becoming a distribu-tor of wine and spirits.

"When you have 1,300 wines and spirits in your portfolio, it's natural to think about starting your own vineyard," said Ga-briel Tam, Parry's former wine-taster. "He had an idea and he worked at it. We owe everything to him."

Wine is only beginning to wine that."

Job at Huadong — says: "If partner, who now runs Huadong. "Everyone thinks about it. Michael Parry actually did it."

Parry chose Shorts."

city of Qingdao, famous for the beer it exports all over flicts. But he always fought the world - because the on. limey soil and south-facing slopes favour grapevines. When he arrived in 1982 he found hundreds of plots farmed individually by

peasants. Persuading them to grow grapes instead of other crops was Mr Tam's job, and it took time. "He was a big man, with a huge belly, and he looked out of place here," Mr Tam said. "He didn't speak the language, and knew noth- Times.

Parry, who went to Asia | 25 miles from the east coast | ing about Chinese culture in 1973 as an accountant | city of Qingdao, famous for | There were a lot of conflicts. But he always fought Parry died in Hong Kong

in 1991. His ashes were buried on the hill behind

the winery and farm work ers still tend his grave. Since then the business has flourished. Rows of vines stretch into the distance, surrounded by apple bring ritual plantings and harvests that enrich the farm workers. - New York

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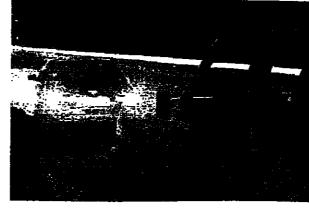
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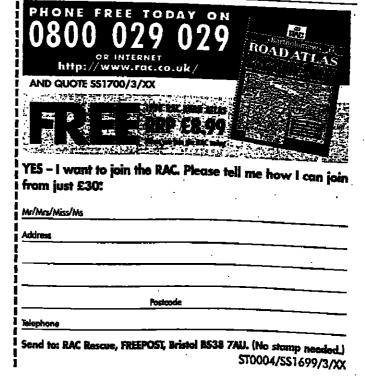
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Delors warns of Paris-Bonn rift

Paul Webster in Paris

HE threat of a split be tween France and Germany was the real future, rather than a crisis in relations with Britain, the former French European Commission president, Jacques Delors, said yesterday. Mr Delors, who turned down a chance of becoming the Socialist presidential candidate last year, appeared sceptical of repeated promises by President Jacques Chirac on European monetary and political union.

He made it clear he thought German leaders were the bet ter Europeans and were the real power behind moves for constructive political co-operation. Arguing it was wrong to focus on British reluctance towards political co-operation as the divisive factor inside the EU, Mr Delors said the fact had to be faced that France had been playing with fire by swinging between a sovereignty reflex and Ger-many's ambition for

federation "Let's have the courage to recognise that the true risk today is not so much that of a Euro-British crisis as that of tunnels and quarries are a Franco-German split," said found to be in good condition, there is a great deal of tourist wing magazine Le Nouvel

Observateur.
Referring to one of the French founders of the European Economic Community, Mr Delors said Jean Monnet's country had often taken the Europeanised Germany and not a German Europe.

Although Mr Delors, who stepped down as Commission president last year, did not mention the present French government during a review of a pessimistic book on Europe in the weekly, his analysis of French policy implicitly included recent deci-sions by Mr Chirac to suspend the Schengen agreement to end border controls and his contemptuous rejection of EU condemnation of French nu-

France plays with fire by swinging from nationalism to federalism

Mr Delors's review of a book called Europe's Choice by Laurent Cohen-Tanugi carried a note of regret that he was not still in charge of the Commission and at the centre of policy on a single currency and political union. Mr Delors, who has retired from public life, pointed out that, despite doubts on European unity, Mr Cohen-Tanugi had praised the federal approach that dominated discussions during Mr Delors's term in

A federation of nation flicting ambitions of France

without fail attached to a velop while maintaining do-Europeanised Germany and mestic identity forged by history, blood and modes of government.

Monetary union would not be determined solely by financial and economic factors but would need real concentra-tion on a political Europe, he

added. "It would be wrong to reduce this last point to a simple demand by Germany."

"In encouraging our people and their leaders to look at the future and weigh up the risks and opportunities and, in the end, to bring out changes for the better, it [Europe] is still the bearer of

The former Commission president's comments will be badly received at the French president's office following recent intense efforts by Mr Chirac to give the impression that France and Germany were working closely together and to dispel reports that the majority of his Gaull!

ist party's executive were Euro-sceptics. It was after seeing Chancel-lor Helmut Kohl in October that Mr Chirac said that a single currency was "the priority of priorities" — a deci-sion which brought about social security austerity mea-sures to balance the budget, which helped spark off recent

industrial unrest. Last month, the two leaders decided on a joint programme states was needed because it to speed up a single currency lifted ambiguity over the consage, Mr Chirac said that risk in the last few years of discouraging German leaders gued. A federation would who were manifestly and allow joint initiatives to de-



Potholers aim to ferret out secrets of war

Evewitness

ch-Triad link denie

ers kidnap help

wanted for critis

Alex Duval Smith in Arras

O ONE in the brick bungalows of Arras's sleepy suburbs has ever given much thought to the manhole cover outside No 2 Rue de l'Abbé Lemire. But today it will be levered off to reveal a conduit to a histori-

cal timewarp.
Two French potholing enthusiasts are to spend the next 60 days exploring a network of tunnels which allowed Commonwealth troops to launch one of the most spectacular assaults of the first world war.

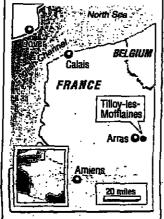
Jannick Roy and Pascal Barrier are to stay underground until March 4 to become the first people since 1917 to explore an estimated six miles of chalk tunnels and quarries was Battle of Arras. quarries which enabled the

Barrier, aged 30, will look for graffiti and everyday items left behind by up to 25,000 Commonwealth soldiers who spent six months tunnelling beneath the trenches.

Yesterday, 60ft below Rue de l'Abbé Lemire, the two men were setting up their base camp in a 25ft-high chalk food, a camping stove, a mountain bike, a Yamaha keyboard, 300 litres of water, 20 litres of wine and a

Mr Barrier said: "The humidity down here is above 80 per cent so we shall use the hairdryer to dry our clothes. Jannick has highly developed culinary tastes so we are running an electricity cable down for his freezer."

In a dark recess a few feet from the men's tents, archae-ologist Alain Jacques was providing a historical perspective. "In the 17th century this chamber was a quarry



providing stone for the Flemish-style houses of Arras. diers who dug tunnels be-tween the city's abandoned quarries named each after towns and cities back home. This is Nelson," said Mr Jacques, aged 40, pointing to the word carved in the wall. On April 9, 1917, the tunnellers — known as "bantams" dreadful. If the men had been because of their small size — discovered by the Germans they would have been ground for a surprise attack

forced the Germans to retreat Masterminded by Generals Allenby and Byng, it was the most spectacular Allied breakthrough of 1917 but it nearly failed, said Mr Jac-ques. "Even though the

troops laid railway lines, the tunnelling took six months. "In February 1917, the Germans regrouped, retreating from the line for which the New Zealand tunnellers were heading. This meant their effort was abandoned and all soldiers were sent up to the British artery, known as the Saint Sauveur tunnel, which emerges at Tilloy-les-Mof-

flaines," said Mr Jacques. The archaeologist, who has provided the potholers with their only map — provided by the British in 1930 — pointed to a six-inch limp object on the ground: a strap from a British officer's boot.

The caves are strewn with artefacts. The potholers have already found several regimental coats of arms, etched into the walls," he said. He pointed to a dark recess rubbish and rubble tip. Among rusty cans and burners was a bottle marked SRD.

He said: "The men spent eight hours here and eight hours in the trenches. Before going above ground they were given drinks of 'Special Rus-sian Department' — very po-tent rum. Working conditions

at Tilloy-les-Mofflaines which A number of Arras's quarries were subsequently turned into wine cellars. The constant temperature below ground is 11C - ideal for storing wine and maturing

> The initiative and funding for the two potholers comes from Arras council.

Spokesman Philippe Garcia said: "It is costing us Fr100,000 [£12,500] ... If the

potential there."

And he sent out a plea to British war veterans. "Hardly anything is known about the conditions in which the troops operated. We would dearly love to hear from any-one who was connected with the Battle of Arras."

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EC orange tariff gives squeezers the pip

Stephen Bates In Brussels

HE British appetite for fresh orange juice is likely to be squeezed after a tart reminder of the European Commission's power to preserve the rights of Mediterranean citrus-

growers.

The price of bottled fresh juice, a best-seller in super-markets and sandwich bars, is likely to rise by at leas 20 per cent next month following the imposition of tariffs on imported oranges to protect orange-growers in Spain, Italy and Greece.

The tariffs were due to come into force at the beginning of December but were delayed because of protests from Britain. The industry may yet be pressed for £160,000 in back duties.

nowever.

If the levy is imposed the supermarket price of a litre bottle of orange juice will increase from about £2.15 to

The introduction of tariffs The introduction of tariffs of up to 30 per cent on oranges grown outside the EU will badly affect the British industry, the orange squeezers say, because it relies on supplies from Florida, the Caribbean and Latin America for much

prepared to make do with thin and syrupy pasteurized juice which looks as if it has never been in contact with

the skin.

It is only in recent years that freshly squeezed juice has made an impression on the British market.

The tariff has alarmed John Sexton, managing director of Johnson's Fresh Products. which has grown in 10 years

'It will certainly make the industry contract, and for no good reason'

from a cottage industry run from an East London back kitchen to a main supplier of hotels and restaurants.

He said yesterday: "It will certainly make the industry contract and it is being done for no good reason. It won't help the orange-growers in Spain or Greece, because they can't supply the oranges we need for most of the year anyway, so it just means there will be fewer buyers for their fruit in Britain.

nice has not been taken up in | 30 per cent more to import a big way. Continentals are them. The price will have to sed on, and we are afraid that most people will not be able to afford to pay it."

In the complex world of squeezing you cannot use just any old orange. The navel or-anges which are the main products of Spanish and Greek groves contain a sub-stance in the pith called limolin which makes the juice taste bitter within an hour or

British fresh juice producers use Late Valencia oranges which, despite their name, are available from Europe only for about three months in the early summer, and have to be imported from the US, Brazil or South Africa for

the rest of the year.

It is these imports which are now being subjected to the tariff. So far the Commission has relented to the extent of allowing in 12,000 tonnes of non-EU oranges at reduced rates, mainly to satisfy British cravings. Officials in Brussels are

planning to look at the tariffs again next week A Commission spokesman said: "The Greeks and Italians want the British to im-

and Latin America for much of the year.

Most of Europe has not noticed the problem because, surprisingly, freshly squeezed we will have to pay about portineir oranges instead. If other members of the family are producing fruit they are not likely to be happy if you say you want to buy your fruit elsewhere." port their oranges instead. It

The very notion of Sainsbury needing to bribe its customers to stay loyal illustrates the extent to which times have changed.

Roger Cowe

G2 cover story

The Guardian

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Murders in a vacuum

Belfast's drug deaths must not derail the talks

LIKE nature, politics abhors a vacuum kind of over-reaction is characteristic and in a situation like Northern Ireland of destabilised politics. But it needs to the consequences are not merely undesirable in principle but have once more become bloodily fatal in practice. Yet five killings of alleged drug dealers in as many weeks have now also put the whole future of the province in 1996 in the balance. This is because, in the absence of sustainable politics, these otherwise secondary issues of crime and disorder always become magnified. Magnified, they in turn hijack the bigger agenda. defining the terms on which all politics can be conducted. In the presence of politics, on the other hand, the peripheral issues remain where they belong and, far from being magnified, can even become progressively diminished.

That's the theory. But it fits much of the recent history of Northern Ireland and it is now the fundamental context within which the current surge of drugs killings there needs to be seen. It was political initiative which brought about the ceasefires. But the absence of continuing political initiative has now finally put those same ceasefires at risk. It has created the vacuum which the recent murders have filled. The murders have become the issue of the moment, displacing more lasting questions and illustrating that the whole process is still vulnerable to every fresh

This is because, in spite of the optimism of the Clinton visit, there is still so little momentum at the centre of things in Northern Ireland. The dangers were very fully outlined by Cardinal Cahal Daly in an address at the weekend. But they were further underlined yesterday by the readiness with which serious politicians like the Conservative backbencher Andrew Hunter and the Unionist deputy leader John Taylor raised the possibility of abandoning contacts with Sinn Fein. That responsibility of the two governments.

be repeated that it is not in anyone's interests for this to continue.

This does not excuse or justify the murders in any way at all. Murder never solves anything. The drugs problem in Northern Ireland (which should not be exaggerated) is not going to be ended (insofar as such phenomena are ever ended) by bullets in the head. Nevertheless it is clear that these killings, which are almost universally acknowledged to be the work of the IRA (and which Sinn Fein has signally refused to condemn), are in part a consequence of the slow progress on political talks. Interpretations of the meaning of the killings differ substantially — some claim they show Gerry Adams's weakening hold, while others say the precise opposite — but all accept that they are intimately related to the slowness of the wider political process. They probably wouldn't be happening — and they certainly wouldn't matter so much — if the political agenda was moving forward more confidently.

However hateful the IRA's deeds and Sinn Fein's evasions, the fact remains that Britain and Ireland embarked on the peace process because they believed that political initiatives could stop the killings. They were right then and they are still right today. If nothing else these IRA drugs murders ought to show the governments that there is little to be achieved by stringing out the political brinkmanship of the last few months. It is possible that this anxious period will end soon, when Senator Mitchell's committee on decommissioning, to whose activities the killings are a deliberate descant, reports next month. But the real question is about continuing the political momentum, and in the end that is the inescapable



Letters to the Editor

The right to life (plus 70) Faced with an unruly, violent mob? You need constitutional reform

of its large music publishers

because of mergers and take-

overs from abroad in the lat-ter part of this century. As a

consequence, the living com-poser of serious music now

depends on the small pub-

lisher, or publishes his works himself, since large conglom-erates cannot afford to repre-

sent more than a handful of the most well-known names.

Music publishing is risky for these small publishers. Prof-its are small and slow in com-

So the conglomerates will

earn more from the copy-rights they have bought — what's new? More important, the smaller publisher is able

to compete on equal terms in

Europe, and the sacrifices made by the self-publishing composer will be recouped

(one hopes) by his heirs for just that little bit longer.

lished by the Government. It tabled the draft regulations in

Alison Birkinshaw.

2 Willowbank, Favordale Road,

ing and outgoings are high.

OHN Ezard dismisses the rationale behind the extension of copyright all too easily (Royalty lingers on, January 2). A fair copy-right law is one of the founda-tions of our literary and cul-tural life. Samuel Johnson also said that only a fool writes for nothing we can only expect our most talented creators to continue to enter-tain us if they can make a liv-

ing from their work. One can argue about the relative merits of a 50- or a 70year term; but in the age of the international information superhighway, the interna-tional harmonisation of copyright law will be essential to prevent the establishment of piracy havens, and to protect the cash investment of publishers and producers, and the less tangible but equal investment of working life of the creators. Harmonisation of the term of copyright within Europe is only the first step in this process -

but a necessary one.

It is not "illegal" to perform revived copyright works unless a royalty has been paid. The legislation is quite clear that all such acts shall be treated as licensed (shell be legal), but that a royalty must be paid. It need not be agreed before the event, so no author's descendant will be able to hold potential user to ransom. Emma Trevelyan. Deputy General Secretary, The Writers' Guild, 430 Edgware Road, London W2 1EH.

OUBTLESS the extension of copyright from 50 to 70 years after a composer's death will cause confusion. particularly as Britain will be | liament from debating and out of step with most of the | voting on amendments. We other English-speaking | were given just eight working were given just eight working nations. But there will be benefits too, most notably for days to consider the effect of these complex changes. living composers. Britain has lost almost all Geoff Hoon MP.

8 Station Street Kirkby-in-Ashfield, Nottinghamshire NG17 7AR.

AR from coming back into copyright, as John Ezard suggests, Edgar Rice Burroughs' Tarzan stories have never been out of it. The author assigned all his rights to a legal entity called Edgar Rice Burroughs, Inc. A corporation, legally recognised as a person, has the potential to live forever, rendering even a 70-year-after-death copyright meaningless. That means that Tarzan, along with Batman, the Lone Ranger, Mr Spock, Noddy and most other 20thcentury cultural icons may never be out of copyright.

In most cases, it's not the families of the creators, but corporate sharks guarding their eternal franchise. Their gain is the readers' loss. John Porter: 29 Byron Avenue,

Sutton, Surrey SM1 3RA. WY composers and writers ■OHN EZARD is right to automatically and without cost enjoy copyright proteccriticise the Government for the inadequate time it gave Parliament to debate the tion for 70 years after death, whereas scientific intellecnewly enacted Copyright Dur-ation Directive. The Directive tual property can only be protected by patents, which are was agreed by the European Council of Ministers on Octodifficult and expensive to obtain and last at most 20 years? ber 29, 1993. Eventually on Just another example of how December 6, 1995, draft Britsociety undervalues scientific ish regulations were puband engineering talent?

11 Hornby Hall Close such a way as to prevent Par- Hornby, Lancaster LA2 8LB.

ORD Weatherill writes per-suasively of the need for "a and powers of both Houses of Parliament; some form of de-volution to Scotland. Wales and Northern Ireland; an elected authority for London. and the return of powers to local government.

All these matters are inter-related. To transform the composition of the House of Lords so as to make it intellectually defensible could lead to changes in its powers: this affects the House of Commons which has scuppered every previous attempt to reform the Lords. To make the Com-mons more efficient, by reducing its numbers and altering the electoral process, affects and is affected by devolution. This in turn impinges on the powers of local government, including a London authority. The EU provides a permanent, and changing, framework.

Would it not be sensible to adopt an orderly, gradualist approach to these interlocking issues? After all, they repreconstitutional settlement for the millennium. An authoritative Royal Commission might take some of the party politics out of constitution-making. The Commission should be designed to last for at least the life-time of two Parliaments, and should be charged with making recom-mendations sequentially, which would in turn be put into effect individually as for-mulated, debated and approved. This would secure the benefits both of incremental change and of mutually informed recommendations.

As it is, both the main politi-cal parties seem to be adopting a policy of piecemeal activ ism (Labour) or piecemeal inertia (Conservative). In either case, we are likely to be landed with ad hoc solutions governed by short-term party political advantage. Lord Bancroft. House of Lords, London SW1A 0AA

BERNARD Weatherill is profoundly right when he claims: "I have not known a time when parliamentarians have been held in lower reason is that Parliament is so unrepresentative. At the last General Election, six out of 10 voters supported parties and policies different from those of the present Government. Indeed, since the second world war, no government has won | 62 Stanstead Road,

Like Bernard Weatherill, I once believed and practised radical shake-up" at Westmin-ster and beyond (House of Shards, December 29). He is surely right to advocate are amination of the composition in particular, the single transferable vote that puts power in the hands of the electorate. (Rev) David Mason. Chairman, The Electoral Reform Society, 6 Chancel Street London SE1 0UU.

> BARBARA Ehrenreich (Comment page, December 29) attributes the shoddiness of US society to corruption of the electorate by misinforma-tion. On the same page Lord Weatherill says our voters are

well-informed. They are not. Certainly they seem to have reached the correct conclusion that it is high time to exercise the supreme virtue of parliamentary politics in that the governed can get rid of the governing party when it goes rotten. But the voters have come to that view because they know it to be true in their

own lives. It is still the case that our electorate is so politically uneducated and misinformed that they are surprised when a Conservative Government enacts privatisation of the main utilities, and become disappointed by the inevitable consequences of placing profit above all else. Does nobody read Tawney these days? Lord Jenkins of Puiney. 75 Kenilworth Court. Lower Richmond Road.

London SW15 1EN. DURING eight months in Slovenia, I was able to see proceedings in the House of Commons from an entirely different perspective. On one Slovene TV channel I could watch the Duma in Moscow or the parliament in Vienna. And I was delighted to see Britain's Conservatives defeated on two occasions. I have no doubt that much change is needed here. As a result of "yah-boo politics". particularly at Question Time, the House of Commons ap-pears the most rowdy parliament in Europe, that of Italy alone excepted. In comparison the Slovene parliament appears dignified and orderly. Its speaker never needs to shout. When televised, Slovene MPs do not choose to make exhibitions of themselves. Their system allows far less drama, but at least it saves an almost unlimit Robin PJ Ball.

an absolute majority of votes. | Caterham, Surrey CR3 6AB.

The perils of social selection

The new proposals are arbitrary, capricious and subjective

WINSTON Churchill thought headteachers had powers "with which | nology. There was good reason for this Prime Ministers have never yet been invested". Now, it seems, they may be | Tory education ministers have had one given even more powers. Yet another education consultation paper is due out next week. According to our Education Editor, ministers are contemplating abandoning a central plank of comprehensive education to allow interviews with children and parents to play a key role in the selection process. This would be even worse than the 11 plus which branded the three out of four children who failed to gain entry into to turn away children on such unclear grammar schools as "failures" at the very start of their secondary education. Social selection poses even more perils than academic selection. At least the 11 plus was based on objective criteria. The new proposal could not be more arbitrary, capricious and subject to bias. It is for this reason that headteachers are exhorted in the current guidance on school admission to avoid using interviews as part of their formal admission procedure.

This is not the first time the Tories have flirted with the idea of reintroducing selection: Three years ago the hapless John Patten, while still Education Secretary, seemed ready to back selection when he wrote in the New Statesman of "a vice that dare not speak its name in hard-core comprehensive circles". But in the end Patten opted for specialisation: the long-approved tradition of allowing some schools to cater for children with special aptitudes in social selection too, needs spiking.

arts, music, physical education or tech retreat. For the last decade, successive common theme: giving consumers more say. All have chanted the same mantra: increasing parental choice. To this end, the 1988 Education Act set every school a specific number of places. Parents were given an unrestricted right of access for their children to the school of their choice until the last desk in the school was filled. Now, it seems, this may end. Heads may be given the right criteria that no appeal system would be able to deal with the dissatisfied. Parents will revolt. Just as serious for ministers, heads may end up hating the proposal even if a spokesman of optedout schools embraced the idea on Tuesday. Social selection will increase the social pressures on heads and expose even the most judicious to unfair suspicions.

What's going on? Politics. The Prime Minister is still searching for Conservative election themes. Last September he floated the idea of a fast-track for church schools wanting to opt out. They would no longer need to consult parents. This backfired when it was rightly rejected by both Anglicans and Catholics, who did not wish to be distinguished from other schools. So now officials have plucked another item from last September's wishlist: giving heads more say over admissions. This

Pulp fiction

M incredulous at the dismissal of Pulp's lyrics by Bel Pintan (Letters, January 3) as the sexist reinforcement of stereotypes. All the characters in Pulp songs are victims, regardless of sex. Common People is based on a real expe-rience of snobbery, and sums up best the humdrum same which the underclass of Britain is so desperate to escape We all know the Deborah of Disco 2,000, present in all co-ed classrooms. If Suzanne Moore applauds Pulp for singing of boredom and frustra tion, and giving kudos to nerd status, so much the better. Liz Nightingale. 31 Shakespeare Tower,

WHO is this "Jehn Majic" (a Serb?) or "John Maju" (an African?) whose signature appeared on that recent news paper advertisement (Letters, January 2)? A graphologist friend commented on the ex-aggerated ascenders with aggerated ascenders with their bloated loops, suggest-ing a "pie in the sky" person-ality. He was intrigued with the elongated thin descender suggesting a "down in the pits" personality: obviously the signature of a mixed-up character. Such a low standard would not be tolerated in

Barbican, London.

any school. William Asbridge. Witney, Oxon OX8 6NF.

NTERESTING that the male Conservative politicians at-tacking Emma Nicholson are using language commonly used when men seek to degrade women: Heseltine said she was "frustrated", Mawhinney described her as behaving "without warning". John Carlisle said she was 'prostituting her views" and Tebbit said she had "importuned" him. This sexist arrogance says far more about them than about Ms Nicholson. Nigel Ulger.

Waverbridge, Nr Wigton, Cumbria CA7 0DT.

The stars predict a row

fresh air about it (Wheen's World, January 3) reinforces popular prejudice and at-tempts to banish the disquieting possibility that whole birthcharts consistently yield more sense than can be dis-

ASTROLOGY-bashing by and witty journalists, is lazy-writers who know sweet minded if no attempt has been made to understand or experience the complexities of birth-chart reading. Accept no false debate between cynicism and gullibility; the truth about astrology is more interesting. Nascita Williams. 32 Cholmeley Cresco missed. All newspaper cover-age, even by great scientists 32 Cholmeley Crescent, London N6 5HA.

Drugs and death in Ireland

Provisional IRA carried out the recent murders of alleged drug dealers (Major facing Unionist ire over IRA drug killings, January 3), what possible objection can he have to joining all democrats in de-nouncing such savagery? If, as most people reasonably sus-pect, the Provisional IRA is escalating regime of so-called punishment beatings, his silence once more exemplifies Sinn Fein's self-exclusion from dialogue with democratic forces. Peter Bottomley MP.

President, New Dialogue. House of Commons. London SW1A 0AA.

F Sinn Fein's Mitchell learned well My own father McLaughlin is correct that as a small boy in Newry there is no evidence that the remembers neighbours who disappeared at the hands of the British Black and Tans, their tortured corpses to be found on the edge of town the next morning. Their injuries included broken kneecaps, gouged eyes and removal of genitals.

These are living memories in Northern Ireland today. behind these murders and the | The terrorists of Ulster are the sons and daughters of a viclent history, virtually all of it perpetrated by the British. The hombings in Warrington, London and elsewhere are also remembered in Ireland, with shame and sadness. Yet neither the British government nor media are willing to provide people in Britain with a balanced picture. There is, in other words, no British memory of the violence with which succeeding governments have managed the socalled "Irish problem". Deirdre Boden.

Lecturer in Sociology.

Lancaster University.

A Country Diary

THE BURREN, IRELAND: To | massed clouds obliterate its return to the Burren is to rays. Christmas Eve saw experience pure and unde lighted candles in village winexperience pure and unde-fined joy in the region's timeless, austere beauty of hills, valley, sea and sky, the tidal ebb and flow. I write at this moment, 2.30pm on January 1, 1996 (a happy 1996 to all), the temperature is +10C, the sky blue over a blue sea - a zephyr barely stirs the yellow-gold of montbretia leaves beneath glistening holly. Two days ago the temperature varied up and down from 4C to zero. Our hills, Cappanawalla, Ailwee, Abbey Turlough were snow-covered, the valley fields crusted thick with white frost, poor wild birds darted low over the roads, North Sea divers, cormorants rode a quiet sea while further north in Galway's docks, gulls floated on great slabs of ice. Throughout this glacial spell the sun shone. Indeed it shone almost every autumnal day so that the seasonal lengthening of nocturnal darkness was less noticeable than in rainy weather when packed,

dows, the traditional Christmas welcome for strangers. The best Christmas story is of Jack, Mary Ann's grandson. aged six. He was the innkeeper in his school's Nativity play. He told his mother. Annie, he didn't want the part because he didn't want to say: No room at the inn". She persuaded him to carry on. At the performance Jack opened the door to Mary and Joseph's knocking, saying loudly, "No room at the inn but you can come in for a drink if you like". The best tourist story of 1995, told by the inimitable Jim Hyland: "Two visitors from abroad were told by their guide. Today we are going to visit the Burren Country. That's good, responded one, he was always my favourite poet." As Rab-bie himself says, "This day Time winds th' exhausted chain, To run the twelvemonth's length again." (Burns)

SARAH POYNTZ

Slippery slope of football reform

An idea as sick as a parrot. Leave the posts where they are

WE HAVE got so used to politicians | goals per match were scored from 2.028 moving the goal posts that a fresh occurrence is hardly worthy of comment; but when the custodians of the goal posts themselves start moving the goal posts it is time take note. What is surprising about Fifa's proposal to widen the distance between the two uprights (by two footballs) and to raise the height of the posts (by one football) is that it hasn't happened before. Goals in Scotland have been changed from being square to rectangular, but the basic dimensions of British goal posts have been unchanged since the rules were formalised a century ago. Football, perversely, has spawned a cliché it was never guilty of itself. It's a foul.

Fifa wants to make football more exciting by making it easier to score goals. After all, people are ten inches taller than when the length of the goal was originally based on the height of three average men. Last season 2.59

games in the Premier and league divisions. This is roughly what happens every year. But it doesn't follow that more strikers would have scored if the goals were bigger: nor that more goals would pull in more punters. Spectators like football to be exciting not easy.

And, once we embark on the slippery slope of change, the reforms are endless: oval shaped goals, pitches proportionate to the average height of players, reducing the size of the ball, extra points for scoring from outside the penalty area, time-outs, sponsored goal posts and so on. Soon handicaps would be introduced (like wider goals for the strongest teams?) to be used; as in horse racing, to make the game "fairer". This won't have any merit - apart from making soccer's second big cliche come true — the level playing field. Fifa should stop moving the goal posts. They are perfectly content where they are

HE current killings and mainings must assuredly be condemned. But the role of successive British governments must also be acknowledged. Collective and co-ordin-

ated violence is learned

behaviour. In Britain's first

and last colony, it has been | Lancaster LAI 4YL.

Matthew Norman

OULD you believe it, a strong contend-er, has already come

forward in the 1996 search for Great Britain's most amusing press office. It is Lambeth Council, which has issued a press release about the appointment of a new Finance Chief. Mr Crich, says the document, has been poached from (of all paragons of local-govern-ment excellence) Brent Council, where he "excelled at the cutting edge of local authority financial management". In particular, Mr Crich "created and controlled 100 businesses units" in Brent, and what finer testament to Mr Crich's fiscal talents could there be? However, perhaps aware of the danger of overpraising him, the press elease fails to mention one of the ventures which formed "this pioneering approach to service quality and value for money". So manifestly successful was The Brent Ad Shop that it was wound up last Febru-ary, having lost some £400,000 of public money. Famously, £23,800 vanished when its director, Ruth Jackson, decided to hold an

NE of the great taxavoidance scams of the age is about to be stopped. Accountancy Mag-azine reports that Customs and Excise are finally addressing the scandal of incontinence pads. It appears that private nursing homes have been taking advantage of the zero VATrating which applies to incontinence pads, and applying for tax relief hich should justly apply only to sufferers themselves and to charities buying supplies on their behalf. However, the patience of Customs has worn out: in future, to qualify for relief, obliged to make separate orders on behalf of each individual patient.

hour-long staff meeting not in Brent itself, but at Amsterdam's Schipol airport.

T will be intriguing to learn whether this Government (or a future Labour government) will ask the tax collector to loophole exploited by News International, which has paid virtually no tax on profits of nearly £1 billion over the last decade. But at least Mr Murdoch continues to share his good fortune with his employees. A small plastic coffee stirrer, known technically as a "milk jigger" (and in n name as ''the Digger's jigger"), has been sent anony mously to the Diary, with the news that in the Wapping tea shop menu it is priced at 3p — the same, in fact, as a small sachet of sugar. Working at a conser vative profit marein estimate of 200 per cent, Mr Murdoch will need to sell only about 10 billion jiggers this year to pay his corpora-tion-tax bill, should the loophole be closed.

HENEVER the King of Siam drove her to despair, Missus
Anna would whistle a happy tune. But Lord Woodrow Wyatt, the sage of Weeford, has an even better method of beating gloom. tragedy in Rwanda or Bosnia, he counsels Times readers, when we live in the paradise on Earth that is Blighty? His own garden, for instance, is close by Lord's; whenever a ball is top edged into the Wyatt flowerbed, he is reminded of cricket, "that most civilised of games that could only have been invented by the English . . . if Marx had ex-amined cricket in the Brit-ish Museum Reading Room, the history of the 20th century might have been different". How very true. But this is not all. "The Atlantic Ocean's mighty waves beating on Cornish rocks . . . a cathedral cloister in a tish glen in the gloam-ing . . ." — these are a few of

his favourite things. "Thank God I am a typical Englishman," the dear old soul concludes, and thank God indeed, It is all too easy to take Lord Wyatt for granted now, of course, but should we ever lose our Empire, men of his spirit will be absolutely priceless.

EWS arrives of the ascent to fame of a previously obscure English writer. A young woman has been overheard at the counter of a Waterstone's bookshop in London asking after a screenplay of Pride And Prejudice. "Tm afraid we haven't got that one." said the assistant, but we do have Jane Austen's novelisation of the

LSO earwigged, this time in the West Midlands, is an encouraging hint of improved relations between localauthority officers and their councillor bosses. "We don't need a plan for care in the community," said a nameless director of housing. "We've got elections."

Major gambles with his place in history

Commentary

PTIMISM is the pro-

Hugo Young

fessional deformity of the governing politician, just as scepti-cism is that of the skulking journalist. Our views on whether the glass is half-empty or half-full are predict-able, and they come with the genetic as well as environ-mental inheritance. In this apportionment of attitude, moreover, I thank God for the optimists even while doing what I can to contest their certainties and demolish their reassurance. Ministers are necessary beings, and could not do their job unless they rode over every gloomy prediction, of which there were thousands, about the unpopularity of privatisation, and every objection, including mine, to the next round of tax cuts at the expense of a decent education system. Pessimism ices politics into total paralysis.

The most necessary opti-

predicament can only abate, is in a job where every predecessor has found it necessary to believe the same thing. Harold Macmillan, abandon-ing belief in 1963, left office on a medical pretext which his doctors almost immediately discounted. He had had enough. James Callaghan. clinging to it in 1978, con-vinced himself that the vicket was bound to improve, and then presided over the election that closed

So it is today. Examining their position, ministers be-lieve it has nowhere to go but up. They think time must be on their side. The past and present having dealt them such unmerited rejection, the future can only bring the people to their senses. Thirty per cent adrift of Labour, Mr Major thinks he owes it to country and party to await the recovery that beckons. And convention supports what passes, in these straitened times, for optimism. On this occasion, however,

the innings for British

convention is almost certainly wrong. Optimism is fantasy. For the party's good it is mere ritual, for the country's a self-deceiving calamity. If the Government keeps itself alive through 1996, The most necessary opti-mist is the Prime Minister. worse. The cost of hanging on any prime minister. John will, from every point of view

Major, who believes that his | save that of office-holding panjandrums, be a heavy tax on the national interest. It will, first, set at risk some

good things the Government has done. The stultifying of the Irish peace process may not be entirely due to conces sions London is making to the Ulster Unionists. Major has his own stubborn revulsion from letting the IRA dictate terms. But if his extended life through this interminable year depends, as it will, on sibylline understandings with Mr Trimble, all denied but all effective, then Ulster, from being the nettle he boldly grasped, will become the body disposed of by a dose of hemlock, the last sacrifice of a desperate opportunist. It won't be exactly like 1974. when another [Jister peace was the casualty of mainland politics. But it will show to Ireland the same, as it turns out futile, priorities.

Clinging on also makes im-possible the most important things the country needs a government to do. This will not merely be an administra-tion that can't rely on getting its measures through Parlia-ment. Since so much of what it proposes, mainly from the Home Office, was conceived in panic and produced in defi-ance of most available evidence and all relevant expertise, that will be small loss. But Europe asks the great national question of the mo-

ment, which the Major Gov-erument is incapable of an-swering. As this year unfolds, every member of the European Union will be engaged in the slow, delicate business of negotiating Europe's future shape. For Britain the task will be in the hands of a cabinet that is forced, by its irreconcilable divisions, to play a role which ranges between the negative and the destructive. With the Tory left at last beginning to show that it is not, after all, clinically inver-tebrate, Major knows that he can't allow Britain's hidden hand at the Intergovernmental Conference to be played by Mr Portilio. The continentals will have no choice but to delay conclusions until Britain sends a credible leader to the table. So delay in Europe, like delay in Ireland, is to be the salient gift bequeathed in these extended death-throes. Meanwhile, as the IGC meets and meets again, every ru-moured movement will be

If the Government keeps itself alive through 1996, things can in fact only get worse

marked in Britain by the knee-jerk savageries of Tory rivals who are competing to possess the corpse.

To shore up this existence, there will need to be further debasements of politics, fur-ther posturings to try and repel inexorable decline. You can hear them already. See, on the horizon, the revival of old Communists in Russia and the possible appearance of an old Soviet general to stands right lead them against Boris Yeltsin, and what is the response of our present-day statesmen?

To jack up the tired old line that Tony Blair, as a former member of CND, must never he trusted with the nation's defences. There will be plenty more of this: plenty more of Mr Heseltine splitting in the wind, Dr Mawhinney lamely announcing another re-launch, Mr Roger Freeman. sprung from obscurity, forcing his upbeat pieties upon us all of them apparently im-mune to the piteous embarrassment that now dilutes the ridicule and hatred they them.
This will be the pattern of

the year, unless it is inter-rupted by an election. It is masked by the conventional pretence that just a few more weeks or months are needed to turn the wheel of fortune round. The myth persists, nurtured by its beneficiaries and encouraged by the restraints of caution under which the media operate, that the Prime Minister is not only empowered but fully entitled to remain in office for the duration I don't think the duration. I don't think there's been a time when that claim was more obviously flawed, more thoroughly inimical to the national interest between now and then -more patently discomforting, one might also have thought, to the equilibrium and selfesteem of a Prime Minister who has for some time been considering his place in

history. A general election in 1996 is about as likely as a byelection in West Devon: that is, entirely improbable, but always subject to individual caprice. Mr Major is by no means as loose a cannon as Emma Nicholson, whose only future lies in re-winning her seat as a Liberal Democrat. Along-side incorrigible optimism stands righteous self-belief. But the time has come to abandon, with the shreds of

Coming alive with a modem in the sunset



Natasha Walter

environmental move-ment alarm as well as delight us? Here are gentle young people living in twig-loos and dancing round camp-fires, playing pipes and banging drums, lying in front of diggers and cranes. They look like they're having fun, but they also, unfortunately, sug-gest that environmental progress is an impossibly purist ideal. At best, they seem free of all the fudges most green-ish sympathisers are forced to make. We wade through vast amounts of Cellophane and polystyrene and crisp packets every week, even if we recycle a couple of glass bottles We spend much of our Christmas break sitting on fume-laden motorways, even if we on the World Wide Web where know our little gestures aren't going to be enough to turn around the slow destructurn around the slow destruction of our environment, but then again, would calling our I like the idea of having a

selves Badger or living in a bender help? A kernel of protesters have tried to rise above such confusions by creating a purist, neo-pagan community; they sweet-chestnut tree in east London, or the chilly com-We picked herbs for medi-cines and food. We learnt old crafts. We danced and sang at night." Another woman who joined the Newbury protest-ers over Christmas said: "We

innocence, with pagan wed-dings and naked dancing, and songs that run "Earth my body, water my blood, air my breath and fire my spirit" is difficult for most people to Mother Earth" sums up their high-minded attitude.

But if you look at this move ment closely, you notice that the greatest majority are not in pursuit of some pre-mod-ern purity. Their protests gainst the car are not Luddite. They have won the argu- | harm.

ment, if not the publicity, with intelligent lobbying, in-formed by expert opinion, rather than by hanging off

Even the tree houses at Newbury are linked by CB radio, bleepers and mobile telephones to each other and to a central office in the town where more telephones, com-puters and fax machines will of protesters, and to the jour-nalists who will take their actions to the wider world. Apparently their communication system was designed by an ex-US naval engineer. When the bulldozers come in they will be followed by television crews with their attendant trucks and capteens; and by alternative-news gatherers like Small World, who distribute videos of the protests for

the public and campaigners. This unique mixture of ata vism and technological sophis tication may turn out to be the most lasting cultural thumbprint of this generation of pro-testers. Environmentalists love computers; Internet bulle tin boards are stuffed with green information and Friends users can view pictures of the Newbury bypass route and read about its environmental treehouse with a generator powering my computer linked up to the Internet."

So the most resonant thrust of the new environmental movement is not its promise may be among the Donga to take us back to a pre-car tribe that sat out on Twyford Down, lying in front of bull we are being honest, can dozers and talking about the hardly bear to contemplate, earth dragon, or among the idealistic squatters saving a us into a post-car society, in which cleaner, well-designed public transport can whisk us rades at Newbury about to do around and between cities as battle from their tunnels and a good alternative to cars, tree-houses. As one woman leaving a few more trees in-who first became involved at tact. This post-modern rather Twyford Down said, some be- than pre-modern ideal brings lieve they have found "a way the pale green ladies in of life in tune with the earth. pleated skirts and the deep green girls with dreadlocks together in these protests.
As one woman who left

London to work from a virtual office in Wales said in an interview a couple of days had a brilliant time. We told ago: "It's a more healthy envi-stories weight and recovided our own entertainment. It's sunsets and snow and hills. I what Cin simas, should be have a modern into my em-about. There was none of the ployer's internal system: you can message people and not ommercial pressure."

Can message people and not get lonely." Isn't this the complex goal that the new environmentalism must take us towards; with modems and sustainable energy to run alongside the sunsets and snow? It isn't as romantic as subscribe to. The graffiti "No living out on the hills with compromise in defence of the earth dragon, but if the new environmentalism is to succeed now rather than in some ideal future, we have to remember to see it as a series of social, political and scientific strategies rather than a religious movement. Though a little dancing never did any



Will you join the dance?

Alan Howarth urges

like-minded one-nation Tory MPs to join him in a principled move to New Labour from John Major's right-dominated party

the Tory Party. It would be a wondrous deliverance for them and for all of us if they were to do so. They are strong characters who will make up their own minds, but let me It will do the country, and

indeed the Conservative stagger through to an increas-ingly bitter and in 1997. Since the summer of 1994— the psychological turning point was the qualified majority voting fiasco — Tory MPs have seen election defeat staring them in the face. Hence the scapegoating — of each other and of the defenceless in society. Hence the increasingly irresponsible calls for tax cuts to buy short-term popularity. Hence the absorption in the developing struggle between moderates and the right for control of

the party's future. Hence the early announcement by 50

Tory MPs that they do not

wish to seek re-election. And

hence the inertia of the

In July John Major played the last card available to him. He hung on to the leadership by the narrowest of margins. He made cosmetic changes to the Cabinet. But in the rest of the summer and the autumn. the right resumed its advance John Major is always suggestible. He bows to those whether in the Treasury or in rightwing think tanks and cabals — who are most insistent with him. He appeases

IX or seven MPs bold. He was abject at the are said to be on the brink of leaving the Tory Party. It ism and Michael Howard's appeal to cruelty.
The distress signals from

one-nation Tories are ig-nored; the Prime Minister never sends them a lifeline. He could have done when he first became leader. The party had said thank you very much and goodbye to Marga-Party, nothing but harm for ret Thatcher because it knew, the Government to attempt to not only that she had lost not only that she had lost judgment and capacity to work with colleagues, but that the ideology she personifled had run its course. Everyone expected Major to bring the party back to its traditional centre ground. It looked briefly as if he would do so. He spoke of a classless society. He offered more money for haemophiliacs and safe havens for the Kurds. It seemed that a humane Conservatism would be restored. But it wasn't. The recession, which as Chancellor he had done so much to bring about, and Britain's forced exit from the ERM, destroyed any remaining will on his part to do more than survive, paying whatever price the right extorted. His re-election as leader in 1995 did not renew his authority because he had no ideas - other than for Ireland - and no purpose of his own beyond survival. One nation Tories are the

first to agree that such poli-cies as have been canvassed

and announced this summer

and autumn are the last scrap-

ings of decayed Thatcherism.

Privatisation of rail and the

Student Loans Company won't

even set out of the shed. Stuff-

and of single parents and young people in rented accommodation is again the politics of scapegoating. It is certainly not justified in terms of restoring the public finances. Sus-tained negativism in Europe is a pandering to insular prej-How much more should one-nation Tory MPs

stomach?

They cannot win the inter-nal debate within the party. The critical disaster was John Major's abandonment of the attempt, almost as soon as he had begun it in 1990 and 1991, to redirect the party. The left to fife party, having seen off Mrs Thatcher, were too relaxed. They did not make the effort then to support the Prime Minister that they should have done, and he When he failed to deal with Michael Portillo as Edward Heath dealt with Enoch Powell the right knew they had

Tory parliamentary candidates, receiving no signal to reprogramme their reflexes, have continued as unreconstructed Thatcherites — or, after her laying on of hands, Portilloites. All except a small and all across the country. It handful of the new intake of is true that one jeopardises Tory MPs at the next election one's career and security, but will be rightwingers.

Conservative MPs exclusively elect the leader of the party. The numbers will be stacked up against one-nation MPs in the short and nasty struggle for power that will quickly follow the Torles' deleat at the next election. One nation cannot win that

Eventually one-nation values will be restored in the Tory party. But it will be a long cycle. Only when Michael Portillo or John Redwood, or whoever the rightwing leader of the Tories is, who have abducted a party tent with numeric approach in the Tory party ing more and more people into because they are militant and prison in worse and worse will it be brought home to the dition? Party loyalty, while Stratford-on-Avon

conditions is wickedly irre-sponsible. Harsh treatment of itself. The return to sanity the families of asylum-seekers and decency will begin then, alty. To the argument that and of single parents and but it will be well beyond the working lifetime of those who are now one-nation Tory MPs, nearly all being of an older generation.
It is not their duty to pro-

vide respectability to a party in opposition which will be committed to values and purposes which are anathema to them. They will do a better ervice to political life to let a rightwing Conservative Party be seen clearly by commentators and voters for what it is. One-nation Tories will be truer to themselves if they ioin one nation Labour. which has accomplished its own long cycle of disengage-ment from minority ideology and factionalism, and returned to realism and connection with the better nature

of the British people. An MP who crosses the floor has to face the collective malice of a bitter party, amplified by the media. It is not pleasant to be characterised as prostituting oneself, as Emma Nicholson has been, or The consequences will be Emma Nicholson has been, or fateful. The new generation of as deranged, as I was But such abuse only reflects badly on those who perpetrate it, and comfort is to be had from the understanding of individual ex-colleagues and moral support from constituents one gains a profound release

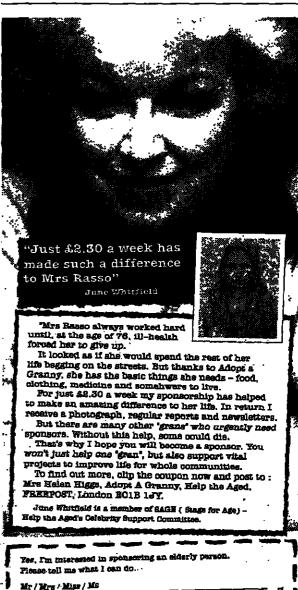
> HE HARDEST thing is to part company leagues and supporters. Charges of disloyalty and treachery curdle the air. But if the debate has to be conducted in such terms, are those charges more suitably made against MPs who stick to their principles and convictions about what is best for their country and their constituents? Or should they be levelled against those

dates as party representatives and not as individuals, the response must be that if that has indeed become increas-ingly the case it is a damaging tendency. Party cohesion is of course necessary for effective government, and parties and voters have legitimate claims to loyalty and consistency. But if Parliament is again to be a serious forum for the nation, and if it is to recover its capacity to scrutinise and check the executive, its members must retain a right to independence of judgment

For these reasons it is not incumbent on an individual MP who leaves his or her party to resign and fight a byelection. It may seem "fair" to those who voted for the MP originally, and it is tempting for a politician to seek new legitimation in that way. But it is a cop-out. An MP is elected to serve all his constit-uents for the duration of a parliament As Burke long ago put it — and as has always been accepted in the theory of our constitution— an MP owes his constituents not his industry only but his iudement".

The Conservative Party has reached a point of confusion and aberration at which the judgment of its MPs who object deeply to rightwing zealotry must surely be that they should go beyond protesting. They have fought their corner bravely and doggedly from within, but they have not been able to prevail: The time has come for one-nation Tory MPs to say they will no longer put up with the harshness injustice, dogmatism and stupidity of the dominant right. They should join the Labour Party, which is now the torchbearer for their beliefs, and is ready to put them into practice in government.

Alan Howarth is MP for



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Grand old man of the Cumbrian crags

vantaged figure on Shepherds Crag in Borrowdale. Around him on neighbouring routes climbers less than a quarter his age (wearing designer tights and muscle shirts) lock off, muscle up and slap for holds, their fingers white with gymnast's chalk. But the octogenarian in Mil-let's bags and Lucy Lastic braces (with no teeth to grit) has the affectionate respect of everyone present as he

rock a chance. He has pedalled here the 25 miles from the Cumbrian coast. Later, fortified by the milk he drinks from a Domestos bottle, he will quietly recycle his way back from Borrowdale, heartened by motorists flashing their lights and pipping their horns as they recognise his legendary evergreen figure pushing away on the pedals.

spurns the gymnastic chalk.

saying you have to give the

Sid Thompson, who has died aged 81. grew up at a time when people's dreams rarely came true. He was Britain's oldest rock climber, still leading respectable cragface routes until a few weeks before his death. His secret was to believe in himself and take his chances, still conquering

ing their pension. Until a few years before his death Thompson, a former public health inspector who retired in 1974, saw his weekend climbs on Shepherds and elsewhere as training for a higher achievement. He yearned to lead the crux pitch of Central Buttress on Scafell. a climb he had scaled so often 444 times, in fact) that other climbers called him "CB Sid". In the living room of his

HE ROCK climber port harbour photographs of the Great Flake; the first partnership with Cliff Sandat 81 cuts a disadclimbers on CB, often with yelled down and asked "CB ham, who like him had grown and asked figure on Sid spreadeagled on crucial Sid" to the on instead so he with the Depression, near sections like the traverse to V-Ledge or the Great Flake (the crux of the climb), vie with snapshots and portraits of his three daughters at various ages. But these action photographs of Thompson never showed him leading the crux of CB. Although he had been first on the rope up the rest of CB, the Great Flake proved rather too much to lead. Wanting to try it was some ambition for a septuage-narian. CB itself being suffi-

ciently difficult for most climbers once in a lifetime. For a number of years Thompson haunted the Oval directly below the Great Flake on Scafell Crag, a ledge so named because it is cov-ered with turf. Waiting alone he then accosted climbers en route for the top of the 400ft face of Central Buttress, quick as a terrier and complete with ratting cap and coil

Only once was he refused space all around me was so Then the second of two climb great that I was hooked on ers, the one who told him to rock climbing for life."

could complete the route.

Thompson was born in Bolton just before the Great War, and wanted to go to college to become an architect and build beautiful replacements for the soot-blackened mills. But his father lost his job, he left school early, and there was no money to send him to college.

Instead he spent 10 years a an apprentice joiner on build-ing sites and went to night school. He qualified as a pub-lic health inspector, shortly afterwards becoming reacquainted with a schoolfriend who offered to take him climbing on the crags.

So it was one Saturday morning at 18, on bicycles and wearing ragged Dunlop gymshoes on their feet and with washing lines in lieu of formative trip. It was a fam-ous climb, a 60ft obelisk on of rope.

"Would you like a wine gum?" he might ask, offering a sticky bag of sweets. Then he would ask if he could tie on as he wanted to do CB too.

Only once was he refused.

Only once was he refused.



ham, who like him had grown up in the Depression, near Keswick. By then he had moved to Maryport and married a local girl, Dorothy Harvey from West Cumberland.

Thompson showed Sandham - who is now 77 - the ropes on local crags. The two men revelled in their pursuit over the years. They were climbing together as recently as five weeks ago. They were on Shepherds Crag in July last year, when CB Sid led the way up a dizzily-exposed route, Little Chamonix, as usual displaying complete self-possession.
In all his years of climbing,
Thompson only had one acci-

dent. It was many years ago at Raven Crag, Thirlmere. On streaming wet rock he came off with a drop of 250 feet below. Luckily he landed in a ropes coiled around their and completed the climb with chests, they embarked on a no more than a few bruises narrow escane. His lucklest shave was on the same crag when he and his climbing partner stood on a large block "as big as a horse" and had barely moved off it when with a resounding crash it broke away and exploded in the vallev 200ft below.

Thompson climbed exten

sively throughout Britain. His favourite area was the sle of Skye where he met notable climbers like Billy Murray and Ben Humble, whose classic book The Cuillins Of Skye includes a pic-ture Humble took of CB Sid on the summit of Sgurr Alas-dair, the highest Cullin peak. in these same mountains the Sgurr Dearg presents a rock climb that is the most challenging summit in Britain. Yet it is only a year or two

Sid Thompson at 81 . . . Britain's oldest rock climber

record. The previous oldest pair known to have climbed the Inn Pinn added up to just

Thompson, a virtual vegetarian (save for "just the odd bit of corned beef") and non-smoking teetotaller, always seemed to have prodigious reserves of energy available, which he attributed to a basic fact he had not realised when younger: the value of food. CB

panion made their way up it. | were as hard as nails and more cautious you become. It their combined ages totalling there were few things he is the young climbers today 152 years. Possibly that was a couldn't chew. Sid Thompson was a kind, open man with an infectious

sense of humour. He took in good part ragging by younger climbers who looked on him with awe, giving as good as he got and clinging on to life — as he did to the rock — with enthusiasm to the end. He took his chances, refused to give up, stretched himself to living legend. He once told

who spur me on. Most will gladly help an old bugger like me with one foot in the grave. They keep me going up the rock. I tell you. I only hope they get the same lifetime of fun and satisfaction out of the crags that I've been so lucky

Tony Greenbank

born April 7, 1914; died January

Another day

January 4, 1944: John Betjeman lunched with me at Brooks's, the first time since the war. He seemed to enjoy himself, jumping up and down in his chair and snapping his fingers. He is sweeter and funnier than anyone on earth. He never changes, is totally unselfconscious. ec. centric, untidy, green-faced He works at the Ministry of Information and simply hates it, returning every Saturday till Monday to Uffington. In his Daily Herald articles he surreptitiously damns the war and progress, and the leftwing ... Said he loved Ireland but not the Irish middle class. Only liked the country eccentrics like Penelope's distant relations, the Chetwode-Aitkens ... When the Betje-mans left Ireland [Betjeman had been press attache at the embassyl De Valera sent for them. Penelope said to him. 'My husband knows nothing of politics: or of journalism. He knows nothing at all."

James Lees-Milne, Prophesying Peace Faber, 1984.

Letter

Louis Massiah writes: I first came to know Toni Cade Bambara (Obituary, December 12) as a writer, through her first book published in 1972. the enormously inventive group of short stories Gorilla My Love and her breakthrough 1980 novel The Salt Eaters. Her narratives went far beyond her ear for the words we speak, and are based on the architecture of how we think, relate and analyse the world

As my collaborator and the scriptwriter for the documentaries The Bombing Of Osage Avenue — which was on the 1985 Philadelphia police attack on a black community recently completed W E B DuBois: A Biography In Four Voices on the pan-African leader and scholar, she brought the same wonderful narrative sense and analysis to film-making. Yet Toni often described herself as a community worker and her artistry vent into that too.

Hamish Imlach

A song, a glass and a laugh

who has died aged 55, was a movable feast. Wherever he was being and demolition of exotic

drinking shandy. It made him taste for a brew. Of Scottish parentage, he In Glasgow, Hamish was born in India and lived in attended school with Archie



Friend and mentor . . . Hamish Imlach led the way for Mike Harding, Jasper Carrot and above all Billy Connolly

AMISH IMLACH. Australia before coming to who has died aged 55. Scotland at 13. On the flight was a movable feast. Wherever he was be gapors, be had become Folk Revival — as exciting all Billy Connolly, whom Hathirsty, so consumed 11 and subversive in its day as mish took under his performparty, marked by uproarious bottles of the strongest beer punk was later. The Fishers ing wing. Many established laughter, the consumption of then known to science, under became major interpreters of singers shy away from excitcopious draughts of any avail- the impression that he was traditional Scottish song, ing younger talent as a threat. While Hamish had a fine way feel sleepy, but gave him a with an old Scots ballad, a sea shanty or a love song, his eclectic tastes led him to be-come Scotland's first blues Hamish guitar stylist, teaching and influencing John Martyn. Bert Jansch and the members

> Political commitment made Hamish one of the key singers for Holy Loch anti-Polaris demonstrators and for many good causes thereafter. His biting recordings of Scottish and Irish political songs helped put him on the rightwing political blacklist of the Economic League.

of The Incredible String

But he will be best remembered for his comic style. For hilarious songs of overindulgence in alcohol, tobacco, sex and other bodily functions he employed a voice quality like piano wire scrubbed with Grade A sandpaper, although for other song genres his voice and gui-tar would sound sweet, sad and quite haunting.

Hamish pioneered the genre of folk comedian, throwing anecdotes and cracks into the middle of songs, and linking them into stream-of-consciousness narratives.

Much of his material was autobiographical, and many of his base lines were lifted and used by other performers. One was "I think I have an allergic reaction to leather. I find that every time I wake in the morning with my shoes | ductions with his occasional

but Hamish saw it as a way of improving the quality of the evening's gig and therefore creating more pleasure for

He became the biggest star of the Revival in Scotland, able to reach beyond the folk song community and fill cinemas and dancehalls. He appeared on more than 30 al bums on the Transatlantic label alone. A developing singing career in England and Ireland led to enduring friendships with Christy

Hamish was an outsize personality with gargantuan appetites

one point the was invited to become a Dubliner.

As the British folk scene dwindled Hamish began to work more in Denmark and Germany. He was a fixture at the Tender Folk Festival in Denmark for many years. where as well as performing and compering he would cook curries for 300 folkies.

Moore and the Dubliners. At

Germany became his main performance base, and in recent years he recorded and released some eight albums there, two of them joint pro-

more frivolous than Green-

ham Common, more feminist than Page Three. But still, you

can't fool us. You can't control

worked up over another fluffy

fantasy, we'll be getting on . .

Not all women are men-bait-ing slags. Not all men are sex-

ist wankers. There are girls

who like boys who like girls to be boys who are girls . . . oh,

Miranda Sawyer's pre-emptive strike in the 1996 gender wars.

us. And you can't stop us.

While you're getting all

touring partner, the respected Glasgow singer Iain Mackin-tosh. Hamish's best known song became the most requested number on British Army of the Rhine Radio. It is an epic tale of a post palais de dance kneetrembler in the Gorbals dark, which results

in pregnancy tonics for the The song, "Cod Liver Oil and the Orange Juice", also provided the title for Hamish's autobiography, published in 1992 and subtitled Reminiscences Of A Fat Folk Singer. He had threatened for many years to write it, but there was always a tale to tell. recipe to try or a friend to chat to first.

Finally I sat him down with a tape recorder, let the stories flow, then transcribed them minus my frequent cackles of laughter. When I told him that under the law of libel he and not the publisher paid out, he removed half the names from the manuscript. though he swore all was true. Weighing in at over 20 stone, of solid goodwill to all, Hamish was an outsize personality with gargantuan appetites who was mightily loved by most who met him, although some couldn't quite believe he was real. While friends and medical advisers despaired of his shape and lifestyle, he was tolerant of our concern but always unashamed. He knew he would never make old bones and lived for the day, the day that

good living.

Hamish Imlach, folk singer and comic, born February 10, 1940; dled January 1, 1996

the delightful sense of having

he enlivened with wit and

Benny Lee

Forever on with the show

care much what they do so at work in the fifties long as they are in show business. He was an acrobat, singbarker, drummer, band-leader, singer, comic, and actor. And from 1950 he was essential to Bernard Braden's groundbreaking radio comedy series. Breakfast With Braden, where the jokes were so good that even the band laughed.

Born in Glasgow he became a tailor's apprentice, then joined a singing and dancing acrobatic troupe. Expediency returned Lee to tailoring, but he did his real work at night. playing drums in his own band and in 1938 joined the Glasgow Citizens Theatre, where he learned the rudiments of acting. Then, in 1941, Johnny Claes heard Lee sing and hired him. He became one of the most popular crooners in the country, and appeared on radio so frequently that after he clocked up his 2,000th broadcast he

stopped counting.
With the mid-fifties sea change in popular music Lee turned to television, includ-ing the 1954 situation comedy, Friends And Neighbours and in 1960. Michael Bentine's It's A Square World. He also turned up in the parochial British films of the day. He won goodish roles in stage musicals, including the

stage shows that his name

tor of the Daily Tclearaph) true

successful 1973 musical version of Two Gentlemen of Ve-rona. It was in one of his last



a member of the cast of that forgotten disaster area, the musical of Barmitzvah Boy, which, in spite of the impressive pedigrees of its writers, never looked like running. When the critic of the Evening News, the genial Felix Barker, reviewed the show, he muddled his frames of ref erence so spectacularly that he wrote: "In the role of the grandfather Benny Green raised some laughs." I might have sued for defamation of character, but by the time I stopped laughing. Barmitzvah Boy had closed. What rankled was not being mistaken for Lee, but being accepted as a grandfather. Lee too must have been dismayed — the mistake had deprived him of a name-check.

In his last years, persisting with his fascination for popular music, he would sometimes write to me about my Sunday radio show. The tone of the letters was always earnest; he remained hopelessly in love with show business. He also took to writing the occasional song, but by now music publishing had long since regressed into infantilism, and his efforts were ignored. Too literate, probably.

Benny Lee, entertainer, born August 11, 1916; died Der

mentary on it and runs Joy

Unlimited, a training organi

sation for health profession-

als. Don't endlessly defer

your happiness. Holden says: "One of the highest

Birthdays

singer, 59; Alexander Chan-cellor, journalist, 56; Sir Ivar Colquhoun of Luss. Chief of the Clan, 79; Suzanne Danielle, actress, 39; Alan Dyer, chief constable, Bedfordshire, 62; Prof Keith Hancock, economist, 61; Prof Brian Josephson, FRS. Nobel prize-winning physicist, 56; Prof Lance Lanyon, principal, Royal Veterinary College, 52; John McLaughlin, blues and jazz guitarist became linked with mine in 53: Diana Makgill, civil serthe most bizarre way. Lee was vant, 67; John Marriott, for-Prison, 49; Margaret Marshall, concert singer, 47; Mick Mills, footballer, 47; Floyd Patterson, boxer, 61; Barbara Rush, actress, singer, 66; Frank Wess, bandleader, 74; Jane Wyman, actress, 82.

Death Notices

Acknowledgments

adults only smile 14 times a

day. Think of the unalloyed

pleasure to be had from eating

a strawberry Mivvi, going to

ing a kite or stealing your sis-ter's dolls and staging an

about being too grown up. It's a sad truth that most of us

spend our childhood years

execution. Don't worry

the seaside and building sand-

astles, playing Scalextric, fly-

th Needed

Jackdaw



Paint envy

"I'M SITTING in a room now that has a pale Araucana green ceiling," Martha Stewart says over the phone. "It is so beautiful with the sunlight streaming in. It looks dark in some areas, light in others. I like to apply it in thinner layers and rub it down with steel wool or maybe sandpaper and get this fine, enamelled finish."...That way lies the only domestic resentment bubbling up as we near the end of the century: paint

province of the very rich and their attendants... Stewart drew her 22 Araucana colours largely from the

envy. Paint envy was once the

light blue, green and brown-hued eggshells produced by her Araucana and Ameraucana chickens at her Westport, Conn home. [Colours in clude Pinfeather, Silkle White, Oceana, Golden Campine.]... This month Ralph Lauren

is rolling out a massive collection of designer paints . the naming alone crested Butte, Porch Awning, Dressage Red, Spinna-ker Blue, Mariner Blue, Relay Red, Polo Mallet White, Kayak Yellow — is the literature of Yuppie porn . . . Lauren's 400 colours are grouped by lifestyle (Thoroughbred. Country, Sante Fe. Safari and Sport) . . . the Thoroughbred brochure, for example, promises "Genteel hues like the regal claret of a huntsman's coat, the verdure of a shadowy wood, or bridle leather the colour of aged cognac"... Such paint fetishism can only lead to more paint envy and perhaps to some nicely finished walls. Newsweek on the multi-mil-

lion dollar international paint

industry: exquisitely Hyacinth

Ladder climb

IF YOU look around, zeitgeistder morph. The cliché meter had taken a definite shift towards Bloke — for both me and women . . . Someone, somewhere's got their lines crossed with their ever-hopeful dicks. Though Lad as a term is being kept for the boys suddenly the only way a mod ern woman can be accepted is by being a young buck herself . And now that the media has finally realised this, what is it going to give us? You

ed it: the female Lad. Lad in a Wonderbra. The Laddess. All new and twice as saucy, Laddess not only has to look like a wet dream, she has to act like she's perma-horny plus possess a degree, a vibrator, a whisky-habit and a searing collection of anti-men witticisms and put-downs. She doesn't get to grow a beer gut. She's just allowed to shout "get your dick out" when Lad demands to see her tits . . .

Just like bloke, Laddess is

yet another cliche, another hi-larious stereotype. Of course, it's better than the others:

freer than Stepford Wife,

from Time Out Out-foxed EVERY YEAR I take a shoot-

ing day or two here and there to repay hospitality to my friends en masse . . . But in quite a busy life, I do not feel able to cope with membership of a syndicate. The emotional tensions call for stoicism of a heroic order . . . It is always nicest to shoot among close friends. I only achieved this ... when four of us started a small syndicate on an estate in Northamptonshire, only a couple of miles from my house . . . At last I savoured

a real stake in the ground we were shooting, knowing the spinneys and paying a weekly visit to Morris and the pheasants through the rearing season . . . Our relations with the local hunt were never warm, because in the shires most fox-hunters share an unshakeable conviction that shooters are trespassing on their turf. The shooters. in our turn, never forget that v are paying for the right to walk the land, while hunts are not. I am sure remarks like this will provoke some fox-hunting readers to tell me I am talking nonsense, that most shire hunts rub along verv well with shoots. But I have eavesdropped at enough well-lubricated shire dinner

parties to know how both sides really feel. "I'll get that stupid bugger Hastings out of that silly little shoot of his if it's the last thing I do," to quote a celebrated local Master on a Saturday night a decade ago. A week after that remark was repeated to me. I shot a fox, coolly, secretly and Max Hastings (but lately edi-

confesses in The Field; other contributions by double-bores Duff Hart-Davis, Barney White-Spunner and Patrick Dammit, smile

Try to think objectively

about happiness. Psychologist Robert Holden has written two books on happiness, is currently researching a docu-



causes of stress is that people are waiting for happiness to happen. It's the Puritan Work Ethic: we sell ourselves now, in order to buy future shares in happiness . . . The problem

is that we get so used to the idea of suffering nobly, with only intermittent bouts of joy, that when the time comes to take our happines, to claim our investment, we can't we're simply out of practice.' In some of the large organisations Holden has advised, men live for an average of just three years after retiring. His advice is carpe diem, or you may run out of diems to carpe Do the things that made you happy when you were a kid. For many of us, the times we remember being happiest were Saturday mornings. with no school to go to, the world to explore and a Raleigh Chopper to do it on. We are probably right, too. Research has found that on average kids

wishing we were adults and our adult years wishing we were children. Watch soap opera. In 1993, a survey of 114 subjects con-ducted at the Kaohsiung Medical College in Taiwan revealed that while watching TV in general was related to unhappiness, watching soap operas was related to happiness. Worth remembering, however, that they don't get East-

Enders in Taiwan Three of 15 reasons to be cheerful: from Men's Health E-mail jackdaw@guardian-.co.uk.; fox 0171-713 4366; write to Jackdaw, The Guardian,

119 Farringdon Road, London ECIR 3ER.

smile 400 times a day, whereas | Edited by Vanessa Harlow

Financial Editor: Alex Brummer Telephone: 0171-239-9610 Fax: 0171-833-4456

Finance Guardian

Despite Robinson supporters' club, underwriters unhappy about level of bid needed to secure Forte | Notebook

City doubts Granada win

Lisa Buckinghan

RANADA'S headroom to launch a knock-out take over bid for hotels group. Forte, was dealt a blow yesterday when some of the City's big fund managers said they would be unhappy to provide funds for a substantially higher offer.

One investment manager said:"I wouldn't be surprised if Granada just walked away. They are not going to ge Forte with the current level of bid and they will find it difficult to get an increased offer underwritten."

Ford bullish

on European

profitability

ORD expects its European operations to

reverse recent losses and be

profitable this year, chairman and chief executive

Alex Trotman said yester-

Speaking as industry ex

ecutives gathered in De-troit for the town's interna-

tional motor show, Mr

Trotman said rising sales would continue in both the

US and Europe. The com-

pany used the event to un-veil its Indigo concept car.

A road-going version is

Although he refused to quantify the size of the

Éuropean profits ahead, Mr Trotman added that sales

would be strong also in Latin America. The compa-

ny's financial services unit

is expected to increase profits by 30 per cent on 1994's

\$1.5 billion (£970 million)

Ford expects its world-

wide market share to be

from 13.2 per cent in 1994.

Total US car sales in 1996 will rise to about 15.3 mil

lion units compared with

an estimated 15 million in

Mr Trotman also said he

was optimistic on the econ-omy, predicting "modest, sustainable" growth with

r cent in 1995, t

capable of 125 mph.

day, writes Chris Barrie.

return to

Granada's bid values Forte cide on any change to the tabout £3.12 billion and offer at this stage. He added that is funded by a that the response from Granada's shareholders had been but he is between a rock and a nai underwriting expresses in which improve the stage. The billion call but he is between a rock and a nai underwriting call but he is b at about £3.12 billion and much of that is funded by a City-wide underwriting excercise in which investors agree to buy new shares for a minimum price.

Another large fund management group said: We would be prepared to stay as a subunderwriter so long as Gra-nada raised its bid by only a few pence but that is likely to be far lower than what they look likely to have to pay." Granada said yesterday it

had made no approaches to sound out City opinion on the possibility of a higher bid. Charles Allen, the company's chief operating officer, said it to agree to participate in a would be inappropriate to de-higher offer. One said:"I would

"nothing but wholehearted support."

The group is expecting to be

able to show its shareholders that the acquisition of Forte will enhance earnings and is likely to provide details of the £100 million a year profit im-provement it believes achievable at the hotels group in its final document on January 9. But even shareholders who claim to be fans of Granada chief Gerry Robinson say they will need to be provided with substantial comfort if they are

hard place on this one. Granada will probably have to in-crease its bid by at least 10 to 15 per cent to win and that would be on the very outer edges of what we would be

happy with."

The investment group which will be crucial to the outcome of the bid, however, is Mercury Asset Management which has a sharehold-ing of about 14 per cent in the bidder and the target but is believed to be a fan of Mr Robinson. MAM declined to com-

together with BZW and Chem-ical Bank arranged the original underwriting facility of £2.5 billion — said he was not aware of any hostility coming from the sub-underwriters. He added: "The banks were committed to what they knew would be a hostile bid, and I'd be surprised if any of them thought that Forte would just roll over ... it was an initial offer, not a final offer."

Meanwhile, an executive of one bank which acted as a sub-underwriter for the origi-nal facility said: "We feel that Granada could raise the offer a bit, and are not worried at the prospect. Others may be Julian Lewry of ABN Amro expressing concerns, but \$3.24 billion

stage." Granada is widely expected to have to increase its bid to win the battle after Forte revealed an increased valuation for its core hotels, promised shareholders an £800 million buy back and a distribution of the company's stake in the Savoy hotels chain as well as having se-cured more than £1 billion for

its restaurants business. Granada's share price of 6491/p last night puts its cashand paper offer at 328p, valuing the whole of Forte at £3.12 billion — against Forte's closing share price of \$43p, a market capitalisation of

Political signals set against offer



Edited by Alex Brummer

AILTRACK has been po-sitioned on the privati-sation slipway with the decision to announce a May public offer in which retail investors will enjoy a degree of preference. The decision by the Government and its financial advisers, SBC Warburg, to press ahead with the share issue is an act of bravery given the legal, political and business uncertainties sur-

rounding rail privatisation. There have been setbacks in the courts over the new timetables and that may not be the last legal challenge. As serious, of course, is the political context of this offer. The weakness of the Government has been exposed by the de-fection of Emma Nicholson to the Liberal Democrats, while Labour is planning to test the Government's majority in the Commons at every possible opportunity — and the unpopular rail privatisation will provide it with ammunition.

As important to investors, both here and abroad, is the uncertainty over what an alternative government would do about rail privatisation should John Major's government fall. The possibility that the railways will come back under official control is certain to weigh heavily with investors. One only has to watch the nervous trading in water utility stocks to see the potentiai risk.

, if Railtrack were simply evaluated as a business, then things would be far more straightforward. There are still critical matters to be settled like the shape of its balance sheet. Moreover, the financial community would be a great deal happier if more of the operating companies and franchises were in private hands before May, so that it could base its analysis on real market figures rather

than accountants' estimates. Nevertheless, by assuring a steady seven-year income stream for Railtrack, the Government has gone some way to assuring investors on this

In rather different political circumstances Railtrack. with its enormous undeveloped property assets and sat-isfactory income stream, might have looked a useful enough investment. But even at a discounted price, this may not be the stuff of private investors' dreams.

Granada bid for Forte that all that Gerry Robinson, so long a City favourite, had to do was lift his finger and the

ing of the £3.3 billion offer was originally put together. Granada's financial spin doctors were making much of the fact that if the company so wished there was up to £3.8 billion out there in its loan syndicate — against the £2.5 billion that Granada actually needed.

That may have been so before Christmas, but since then there has been a bravura performance by Forte's dethe sale of its restaurant business to Whitbread, the revaluation and profits breakdown of the hotel interests and — best of all from the point of view of shareholders — the promise of an £800 million

share buyback. In that Mr Robinson cre ated the conditions in which all this could happen, in such a short period of time, he has worked miracles for Forte

shareholders already. In fact, so well that our own informal poll of some key shareholders (not including MAM) suggests that as subunderwriters in the syndicate organised by ABN Amro, BZW and Chemical they would be reluctant to stump up more cash for a higher offer, let alone vote their considerable stakes in favour.

Granada still believes that it can convince its supporters that there are £100 million extra profits to be squeezed out of the current Forte, a claim it promises to develop soon. But there is the distinct impression now that since Granada discovered Sir Rocco out shooting on day one of their bid they have drawn no fresh blood.

Green peril

LTHOUGH this may be a vain new year wish, it, must be hoped that 1996 sees a reversal of last year's loss of momentum on environmental issues in the business world.

good, however. The Government's Advisory Committee on Business and the Environment appears to have lost its early cutting edge, as evi-denced in its deliberations on environmental reporting, which will be published soon.

The committee was chal-lenged last spring by Environment Secretary John Gummer to come up with answers on how companies should acimpacts. It should not have been too difficult to respond. since the committee had already published a prelimi-nary report which, among other things, called on the Stock Exchange to incorporate environmental reporting

in its listing requirements. It seems that a further six months of contemplation have done little to advance thinking. The impending committee report is expected to do little more than call for T HAS been an unspoken assumption throughout the course of the closely-fought which is what is needed what,

was lift his finger and the cash would be ready to support a higher bid. Indeed, at the time that the underwritted achieve their objective of making the environment a key election issue.

Railtrack sell-off to go ahead in May

Blue streak . . . Ford's two-seat V12 concept car, the Indigo, was unveiled at the Detroit International Auto Show

Chris Barrie

■HE Government signalled its determination to push ahead with railway privatisation yesterday by announcing that shares in Railtrack, the track operator, would be sold next May in a public and institutional offering through share shops nationwide.

In a move to regain the political initiative on privatisation, ministers pledged that the sale, which could top £2 billion, would be presaged by a nationwide press and TV advertising campaign aimed at sweeping away fear among share shops nationwide.

unpopular.

Stressing that the timetable for the Railtrack sale was being met, transport depart-ment officials suggested its sale would maximise income for the Government just as privatisation would inject more competition and choice. Rejecting claims from the Opposition that privatisaion could yet be stopped, one offi-cial said "large and signifi-cant sales" of railway opera-tions had already taken place. But Labour swiftly condemned the sale announce-ment and warned investors at sweeping away fear among that the party was deter-

investors and the public that | mined to retain the railway | would crush its ability to turn | known in advance, but the | would have to price the the sell-off would prove | infrastructure in public | in profits. The union did not | second will be determined by | shares cheaply to provide inownership. Transport spokesman Brian Wilson said:
"Labour's strong advice to
the investment community would be to steer clear of this unwanted privatisation." The party was considering a number of options and may

spell out its plans to potential investors ahead of the May sale, he added.

The RMT union warned that Railtrack would only be profitable if it were allowed to vestors, will buy shares

expect its members to partici-pate in the share offer despite special deals for employees and pensioners.

Under the terms of the Railtrack offer at least 30 per cent of the shares will be offered to the public who must register in advance with organisa-tions acting as share shops, sell off assets, including its extensive property portfolio. A spokesman said Railtrack was faced with a hefty investopen-priced, tender offer. The public will pay for the

second will be determined by the strike price established in the international offer. Although the public will not know what the shares will he added that Labour faced a "tricky task" if it was not on the shares. cost in total before applying, a range of values will be given taking Railtrack back into in the prospectus. The public public ownership without will enjoy a discount on the

price paid by institutions. City analysts were quick to point out that yesterday's announcement omitted to dis-close key facts, including what proportion of Railtrack shares would be sold, the capital structure of the company. and the shares' price range. One stockbroker said last was faced with a heaty investment programme which The size of the first will be night that the Government

he added that Labour faced a "tricky task" if it was set on public ownership without And an analyst said the

Government would be keener to ensure a successful flota-tion — by pricing the shares cheaply — than to risk public failure. The priority was not revenue-raising, but to inject commercialisation into the industry and end subsidies costing £1 billion a year for the next five years.

Airbus loses ground in jet set | Westinghouse sells defence arm for £2.3bn

Jonathan Freedland in Washington

HE broadcasting and electronics giant Westinghouse is selling off its defence arm to the Northrop Grum-man Corporation for \$3.6 billion (£2.3 billion), in a move that accelerates the

reshaping of both the US media and defence industries. Westinghouse said yesterday it was making the sale to Boeing clear in the niche fund its controversial purchase of the CBS network. which set it back \$5.4 billion last August. The conglomerate — best known for fridges and household appliances has had to sell off several holdings to fund its move into

US network television. sold the Kroll Group, its office

Westinghouse's Electronics Maryland, employs 14,000 workers and its chief products are air- and groundair-traffic control technology.

London takes tip from US as shares surge to new high **Paul Murphy**

HE CITY turned a blind eye to the troubles besetting John Major's Government yesterday, and share time peak in response to another surge in US stock

The move, triggered by speculation that an end to the stand-off between the Republican Congress and President Bill Clinton over the American budget deficit is now in sight, echoed across financial markets around the world.

Following the surprise cut in American interest rates a week before Christmas, there are now hopes that US borrowing costs will fall further at the end of this month. In London, the FTSE 100 in-

dex of top British companies closed 44.36 points higher at a new closing high of 2329,22.

first time to close at 3715.6. After jumping 60 points on Tuesday — the biggest one-day gain in seven months — America's premier share in-dex, the Dow Jones Industrial prices were pushed to an all- Average, had advanced another 20 points at lunchtime yesterday. Equity strategists in Lon-

don are banking on another cut in British interest rates, following on from the quarter point cut to 6% per cent in December.

While the defection of Tory MP Emma Nicholson to the Liberal Democrats has ratiled nerves in the City, the expectation of another rate cut and further takeover bids has delayed the process of "pricing in" the possibility of a general election before the autumn.

In Germany, the DAX index

TOURIST RATES	- BANK SELLS	
Australia 2.02	France 7.36	italy 2
Austria 15.11	Germany 2.1600	Maita
Belgium 44.40	Greece 356.00	Nether
Canada 2.05	Hong Kong 11.81	New 2
Cyprus 0.6960	India 54.79	Norwa

herlands 2.4250 Spain 162.00 Zealand 2.31 Sweden 10.10 vay 9.50 Switzerland 1.73 226.00

Saudi Arabia 5.80 USA 1.5175

Mood of buyers shows rate cut needed as orders dry up

Larry Elliott Economics Editor

NFLATIONARY pressures in manufacturing industry

the City's hopes of an early cut in interest rates, the Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply said factories ended last year on a downbeat note. The organisation's purchasing managers' index (PMI) found only a marginal recovery in December from the poor November showing. with order books drying up and firms trying to get rid of excess stocks.

Peter Thompson, directorgeneral of the institute, said: This is rather sobering news Productivity is healthy, but demand is static as many firms use existing stocks to meet sales. As far as order books are concerned, manufacturers seem to have had a

The index is based on questions put to purchasing manitons put to purchasing manitons put to purchasing manitons put to purchasing manitons put to have a chance of hitting its agers, who buy parts and raw to have a chance of hitting its mercial iets. against the US materials for industry. Read- 8 per cent growth target.

ings over 50 on the index indicate expansion, while dips be-low that level show a decline. The figure slipped to 49.9 in November, but recovered to 50.7 in December. "At only have faded away as firms have cut prices to attract new orders, according to a survey released yesterday.

In a snapshot that raised the City's house of an arrival property of the company of the city's house of an arrival property of the city's house of an arrival property of the city's house of the city'

peared," said the institute. On prices, the index was recording figures well into the 70s last summer, reflecting stronger demand and the weakness of the pound. In both November and December, the figure was below 50, suggesting firms have been reducing prices to woo

customers. Michael Saunders, economist with Salomon Brothers, said the index was "consistent with a sharp slowdown .. although it suggests that the economy is not in a

freefall". Jonathan Loynes, of HSBC Greenwell, said that the latest index contained "no real signs of hope for manufactur-ing". He added that the Government would need further

MARK MILNER on group's 45.8 per cent. That ginning to come out of the was the first time any other trough. Obviously, it would developments in

fight for the skies with rival Boeing

IRBUS INDUSTRIE, the European manufacturer of big commercial jets, pulled in record revenues last year but new orders fell 15 per cent to 106 aircraft, which leaves the company trailing well behind its main rival, Roeing.

Turnover in 1995 amounted to \$9.6 billion (£6.2 billion) compared with \$8.5 billion the previous year, according to Airbus, a consortium of British Aerospace, Deutsche Airbus, France's Aerospatiale and Spain's Casa. In recent years Boeing

has traditionally outsold Airbus on a ratio of around But, in 1994, Airbus nar-

manufacturer had outsold Boeing since the 1950s, though the result was regarded in some quarters as a fluke. Boeing has yet to release

definitive final figures for new orders last year, but the total will be well ahead of the European group's Latest figures from the US group show orders to late December amounting to 261 jetliners. Airbus has declared that

it is aiming to take 50 per cent of the market by the craft," he said. end of the decade and yesterday's results are unlikely to be seen as a severe | said the increase in turnblow to its ambitions.

Chris Avery, an aerospace craft, worth around \$46.4 for \$585 million.

Westinghouse's Markets. "I don't think this is go-

mercial jets, against the US | conscious that we are be | aircraft.

have been nice to do even better, but I don't think the figures were that bad. We would classify them as somewhere in the middle," he said. Mr Avery expected the rivalry between Airbus and Boeing to remain flercely

"I think one of the most interesting things will be Airbus's reaction if Boeing stretches its 747 [aircraft] again. That would keep market for very large air-

competitive.

Airbus deliveries totalled 124 last year and the group over reflected a larger pro-One year's results in an industry where products tion A330/A340 wide have a 25 to 30-year life bodied jets. At the end of cycle is not enough to be the year Airbus had an conclusive, according to order book of some 578 air furniture-making division,

The group was able to get the new year off to a flying rowly outstripped Boeing ing to be a long-term start by announcing that it in the race for new orders, disappointment." order from Gatx Capital based defence radar systems.

Corporation for its A321 anti-submarine systems and

Corporate bruisers start

Outlook '96/Lisa

increasing tension in

HE corporate gover-nance debate could

hardly be more finely

balanced. Flushed with

boardroom politics

their success at the British Gas annual meeting last year and armed with the new

checklist recommended by

Sir Richard Greenbury, indi-

vidual shareholders and their

representative groups could be forgiven for feeling they have it within their power to

excise rot in the boardroom.

The "Gas alliance" struck between small shareholders

and bodies such as Pensions Investment Research Consul-

tants - which represents nu-

merous local authority funds
— appears to suggest that, on
some issues at least, individ-

uals and those backed by

billions of pounds can find

common ground.

But, while the backing of the mighty institutional in-

vestors remains crucial for

individual shareholder groups seeking to implement change at the annual meeting,

There are influences seek-

ing to roll back some of the

corporate governance gains of

recent years and wrap up the debate before it becomes any

more onerous for business.

the Cadbury 2 committee un-

der Sir Ronnie Hampel's

chairmanship as narrow as

Bruised by the executive

pay controversy which led to the formation of the Green-

bury committee and stung by

recommendations from the

Marks & Spencer chairman which were more demanding

than expected, these two

organisations made it clear

that they did not want any re-

Indeed, members of the Greenbury committee have

warned that forces within the

examination of "big issues

possible.

Buckingham on

Training ship carry aid

DLANS have been com-pleted for the building of Britain's largest registered sailing vessel which will carry aid to Third World countries and return with goods for sale

in Europe. The Renaissance, the first such vessel to be built in the UK for 75 years, will be crewed for six months each year by 120 youngsters in a training programme for those deemed to be at risk

or who have been in care. British Telecom has given £66,000 to fund the project's initial stages.
The Renaissance, to be

based at Devonport, has been designed by Mike Wil-loughby, marine services director of the Renaissance Maritime Charitable Trust. Captain Willoughby is pictured with a model of the ship at Devonport.

PHOTOGRAPH, STEWART GOLDSTEIN



Indian penalty could wipe out firm

British conglomerate set to prosper from affiliate's ill health

£146m tax evasion fine ITC plays threatens BAT partner

Suzanne Goldenberg in New Delhi

rupees is threatening the future of BAT's Indian tobacco affili-

The fine is the largest ever imposed on an Indian firm, and is part of a drive against tax evasion by cigarette

"ITC's entire net worth will be wiped out," if it is actually made to pay, said VV Sivaku mar, a research manager with Crosby in Bombay.

ITC's net worth was esti-mated at 8.54 billion rupees in March last year. Mr Sivakumar said he expected ITC would eventually be asked to pay a'much smaller amount

The fine by the excise commissioner caps a turbulent gressed the law," executives corporation, which is 31.8 per cent owned by BAT.

A long-running battle by the British conglomerate to take management control at ITC failed last month when ers rejected BAT's candidate (£146.5 million) for for chairman and instead promoted Yogesh Deveshwar, the 48-year-old vice-president to the top post. Mr Deveshwar, who took

over on New Year's Day, said the firm still had to decide what course to take. However, firm would definitely appeal to the customs tribunal. In addition to his order that

ITC pay back taxes, the excise commissioner imposed a penulty of 740 million rupees on ITC and seven firms making cigarettes for it, and fined six former ITC directors a total of 31.5 million rupees.
Directors facing personal

fines were also expected to appeal. We would like to say that ITC has never transat the company's headquarters in Calcutta said.

something we have readily available," but offered to

fax the information, along

THE fayer of brokers

UBS, at Broadgate, is

sporting an imagina

tive festive display. Adorn ing one wall are photo-graphs of employees taken

at the firm's bash at the Grosvenor House Hotel.

They show some of the City's top folk, pink-cheeked and dressed to the

nines. Copies are a cool £8 each but Underside yester-

day saw no rush to order — perhaps the victims were

self-assessment too far.

ments were. Nor who they had been submitted to. A

self-assessed press release?

Sent us a glossy tome celebrating its 25th anniversary. Beautifully bound.

exquisitely photographed and clearly having cost a

packet, it contains useful

nuggets such as "when

dealing with large sums.

fractions of a percentage

point could mean the differ-

ence between profit and

Money well spent, we

ORD/LB, Germany's

10th largest bank, has

HOSE tax wallahs are taking the do-it-your-self philosophy behind

just being bashful.

sum until the appeal could be beard, although it could apply for a waiver. The company has three months to appeal against the order. A BAT spokesman in New Delhi said last night that there would be no decision on whether to bail out its recalcitrant Indian af-

informed of the ruling.

Mr Deveshwar is expected to discuss what price BAT might exact for a rescue oper-ation during a scheduled visit to London next week.

filiate until it was officially

The ruling comes at a time when ITC executives were trying to forget a bruising confrontation with BAT in which the Indian firm had been accused of financial irregularities. "It's not some-thing that's just cropped up. This is just another reason why they felt systems could be better in ITC," a BAT spokeswoman said.

Tuesday's ruling follows

said that ITC would normally | finance ministry in which the be required to deposit the tobacco firm appealed to the tobacco firm appealed to the Supreme Court to have the charges thrown out.
The dispute arises from al-

leged short payment of excise duty between 1983 and 1987. M Chandrasekaran, the additional solicitor-general who acted for India's finance min-istry, said the case centred on a discrepancy between the stated price of cigarettes and the price at which they were

eventually sold. Vendors were instructed to sell ITC-branded cigarettes at higher prices than those printed on the packet, and the firm did not pay excise on the

"The case of the government was that they printed a price on the packet which was fact not the price at which it was being sold or was capable of being sold. It has been found by the adjudicator that they had not paid full duty and duty has been imposed on the basis of the dif-

hard to get

National pride saw off outsider. says SUZANNE **GOLDENBERG**

could be to BAT's gain in its campaign to increase its stake in the Indian firm

In September last year. BAT engineered the prema-ture exit of the flamboyant ITC chairman, Krishan Lal Chugh after a boardroom struggle in which British executives brought in auditors to accuse the Indian firm of financial irregularites. BAT later withdrew the charges... It was thwarted in its efforts to split the post of to restructure the ITC board.

national pride and Indian fi nancial institutions, which the environment, were given hold a 38 per cent share of the a demonstration of how firm against BAT's 31.8 per cent, forced through the ap-pointment of Yogesh Devesh-

This was arrived at without a ballot after a two-day standoff between BAT board repre sentatives and Indian finan cial institutions. It was seen as a humiliation for BAT which had been lobbying for an external candidate. Mr Deveshwar, aged 48, has been with ITC for nearly 30 years. BAT reconciled itself to defeat because Mr Deveshwar was said to enjoy good con-tacts at India's finance

The struggle centred on BAT's efforts to increase its stake in ITC to 51 per cent by installing its own candidate as chairman. It was also hoping to broaden control over chairman into executive and non-executive positions, and operations while spinning off operations while spinning off ters in Calcutta said.

Inearly nine years of legal ference between the two Indian government lawyers battles between FTC and the prices," he said.

The selection of the next ITC and agriculture business into chairman became a matter of separate companies.

to fight back some of its proposals, particu-larly those relating to the reporting of executive pen-sion payments which — in

the first year at least — are expected to produce tele-phone-number packages for many FTSE-100 directors. Sir Ronnie, chairman of ICI, is no one's stooge and stood out for an independently-minded group of executives prepared to join him on Cadbury 2. He has said that this group will look at all corporate governance issues and hopes to issue a consultative paper before making final recommendations.

Sir Ronnie is not driven by a zeal to redefine the composi-tion and workings of Britain's boardrooms as was his predecessor, Sir Adrian Cadbury. Nor does he appear keen to take on some of the less main-stream issues raised under the title Tomorrow's Company bythe Royal Society for Arts, which looked at corpo-rate relations with employees, suppliers and the commu nity as well as with

shareholders. But, by ruling nothing out, Sir Ronnie can rule every-thing in Even if he does not have the stomach for another big overhaul, he can try to ensure that what already exists works as well as possible.

the last year has shown that powerful alternatives exist. This means looking more Take Shell's climbdown closely at the role of instituover the Brent Spar. There, investors concerned about tional investors and asking if they could and should be wider governance issues such more active. Compulsory voting for big fund managers is a as a company's approach to fraught issue which is likely to come into focus as a poten effective it could be to link up with a potent green tial Labour government looms larger.

The decisions by the rail, post and BT pension funds to publish voting guidelines could provide a bridge. Sets of rules have the merit of forc-ing funds to think about their policies before they publish The Stock Exchange and CBI attempted to keep the remit of and then sticking to them once they are in the open. Going public with the common insurance company policy of endorsing the current management unless there are overwhelming reasons not to, simply invites questions.

Few contentious corporate governance issues slot nicely into a given set of guidelines. But fund managers are paid highly to make judgments on ficiency. In their role as guardians of the Cadbury and Greenbury codes, they must now prepare to stand up and

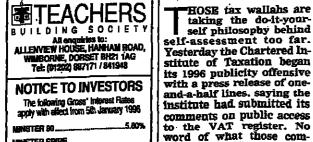
City are attempting to derail | Tomorrow: Drugs industry

Underside

Pauline Springett

AFFLED by Byzantine financial services regulations? Why not splash out £65 on a book by City solicitor Simon Morris — Financial Services: Regu lating Investment Business. Mr Morris's firm Cameron Markby Hewitt describes it as "the only book currently available to include straightforward information" on City enforce-ment, and adds that it 'clarifies financial services regulation". Eager for clarification on, say, unit-trust marketing, the reader can turn to page 185 and learn: "76(2) sub-section (1) above shall not apply if the advertisement is issued to or the person mentioned in paragraph (b) of that subsection is; (a) an authorised per-

NDERSIDE is cheered to note that the Met Office is not wasting public money. Callers requesting weather information must pay for the service. Basic facts, such as "it was minus 20 in Glasgow last 'night" could set you back £100, a spokes-man revealed. Pressed for a summary of the recent cold snap, he added: "It's not



MINSTER SPIRE 5 20% F20.000+ 25,000+ MINSTER MONTHLY £40,000+ £20,000+ 95,000+ BUILLION SHARES

THREE YEAR FOXED TERM4.90% MONTHLY CONTRACT SHARES _1.00% EXTRA ORDINARY SHARES _____0.25% "The Great Rest & the commenced rate of internal expedite and burg account of the distruction of incom-sured the supercondity rate.
"Change for new investors."

News in brief

Engineer jailed for £1.6m bribes

A DUTCH marine engineer on a £100,000 salary started a three year jail sentence yesterday after admitting taking £1.6 million in bribes from a Singapore-based shipyard. The Serious Fraud Office said Cornelis Van der Horst, 54, took bribes to favour Kepple Shipyard during the bidding process for ship repair contracts while working in Britain for Petroleum Shipping Ltd. PSL, which moved to Southampton in September 1994, man-

ages the Exxon Corporation's fleet of tankers and the SFO said in the four years to 1995 every repair contract was awarded to Keppel. The 27th consecutive ship provoked a PSL internal inquiry which led to a police investigation. Van der Horst pleaded guilty at Southampton Crown Court to three specimen charges of corruption. — Sarah Ryle

Banks attacked on Tessas

with an invoice. For a mere £138 a month plus VAT. customers can make 12 BANKS have given savers a raw deal on Tessa savings accounts, paying out an average £300 less than a typical building society, according to the Consumers' Association magazine Which? The calls a month for weather statistics. A £400 charge is consumer watchdog claimed that the five biggest banks — Abbey National, NatWest, Barclays, Lloyds and Midland — all paid a lower return than the average Tessa tax-exempt savings account made for more frequent in-quiries. It might be cheaper

Bank of Scotland, Barclays, Clydesdale, First Direct, Lloyds and Midland all have Tessas among the Which? 10 worst perform-ers. The Bradford & Bingley and Nationwide building societies were branded as offering the worst buys. A Nationwide spokes the Bradford & Bingley maintained it topped most other independent best-buy tables. — Teresa Hunter

Polish telecoms claim

FRANCE Telecom has launched a \$500 million (£325 million) claim for compensation from the Polish government, claiming the country's telecommunications ministry is denying it the right to a mobile telephone licence in breach of a four-year-old agreement. The French company said yesterday that it had taken its case to the International Court at the Hague.

The move follows a similar initiative by Ameritech, France Telecom's US partner in the Polish company, Centertel, Ameritech is claiming \$1.5 billion from the Polish authorities. Polish government officials deny Centertel was promised a licence and argue the group must bid for one of two mobile phone licences which have been put up for tender. — Mark Miln

Dresdner tax arrests

GERMAN police yesterday arrested two officials from Dresdner Bank in Koblenz on suspicion of abetting tax evasion. Dresdner said the arrests were linked with a special case and were not part of a wider tax inquiry. "It is totally different from the other cases examined by tax investigators in our bank and therefore cannot be compared with them," a spokesman said.

German banks have come under fire since the 1994 introduction of a 30 per cent withholding tax on interest income provoked an exodus of hundreds of billions of marks to Luxembourg. Moving funds abroad to avoid tax is not illegal, but failing to report interest income is. - Mark Milner

Rope maker in a knot

SHARES in Bridon fell 14.5p to 104.5p yesterday after the wire and rope maker issued a profits warning. It said its 1995 profit would be lower than the previous year's £10.1 million, partly due to reduced profitability in the US and losses at its Australian

Bridon, which intends to raise its final dividend by 10 per cent. said the group's investment programme and new production methods would have an impact in 1996. - Pauline Springen

Cellphones Direct's **NEW** I SECOND BILL is stripping Orange of

its appeal. dicital tariff, making the best even better.

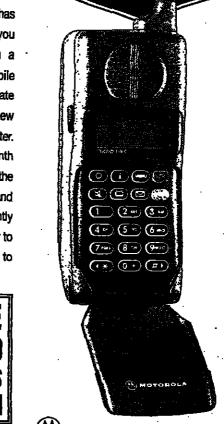
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receive your phone within 4 working days.





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MICRO-TAC INTERNATIONAL 7500. The pocket phone with the unique Motorota flip. ◆ 90 mins talk-lime ◆ 15 his standby-time ◆ One-buch turbo dialling

Complete with charger and battery ♦ Weight approx 275g

COOR AND TREE MOTERINGUISM GAMES WHEN THE COLL WIS STORE REPORT OF ARE CHARLE TO ACCOUNT STRICT CARROLL

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Dublin Flyer out of King George

Graham Rock

30.00

Francis :

HE thaw might have come in time to save the rearranged King George VI Tripleprint Chase at Sandown on Saturday, but the warmer weather

did not arrive early enough for Dublin Flyer.

He misses the big race as his trainer, Tim Forster, has been unable to give the Mackesson Gold Cun winner a thoreson Gold Cup winner a thor-ough preparation because of the frozen ground.

Confirming his horse's absence, owner John Sumner explained: "Captain Forster has not been able to do enough work to get him

ready.
"Tim has had worse weather at Wantage than we have at Banbury, and we've had it pretty bad. We thought there was no point in running him if he was not ready, so we'll wait for another day."

The John Bull Chase at Wincanton next week is a possible alternative for Dublin Flyer, but victory would be scant compensation for Sumner, who won the King George with Royal Marshall II in 1976.

As a result of yesterday's withdrawal, there was a minor shake-up in the antepost market and the Tote's 9-4 is now the best price about the favourite. One Man. Coral | bly consistent in novice hurand the Tote offer 7-2 about dies last season, running six held in police custody.

Barton Bank, while Lad-brokes are opposing Master Oats at 11-2.

Coral have Merry Gale (confirmed a definite runner) at indentical odds, the longest available. Ladbrokes cannot choose between François

Doumen's pair, offering both at 10-1, but Algan is generally available at 14-1.

Edward Gillespie remained confident that the 1997 Vodafone Derby will be the first with prize money of £1 million, despite the news that the mitial entry for the world's best-known Flat race is the lowest since the present system was initiated for the 1992

There are 554 horses entered at £250, compared to 620 last year, a decrease of 10.6 per cent, but only 10 fewer than the previous lowest. "It's a nice pool of horses to work with," said Gillespie. "My main job now is to ensure than international owners of suitable horses are aware of the entry stage in

March 1997." Mary Reveley will be hop-ing that Sedgefield passes a precautionary inspection this morning. She has several good chances at the enterprising northern course, with Lochnagrain (1.40) well worth an interest in the Sedgefield Cricket Club Chase. Lochnagrain was admira-

He has always looked the sort to do better over fences, and made a favourable impression on his chasing debut at Doncaster last month, going down by just over a length to the more experienced Gen-eral Command, with Destiny Calls, twice a previous winner, 10 lengths away.

Reveley and Peter Niven should also win the Corner Shop Selling Handicap Hur-dle with Kimberley Boy (1.10) and Cutthroat Kid has a chance in the Ceddesfell Hall Hurdle on his third to Sesame Seed at Doncast However, he was more than

12 lengths behind Pride Of May (3.40) when they were fourth and sixth respectively to Sparky Gale at Ayr and at today's weights will be hard pressed to finish ahead of his old rival.

Matthew McCloy has won a seat on the British Horserac-ing Board for a four-year term. Currently a co-opted member, the chairman of the Industry Committee will replace Michael Darnell from June as the Industry member and director.

His candidacy was agreed unanimously by members of the industry Committee yesversy that has surrounded his trip to New York when he was



Winning leap . . . David Bridgwater takes the final flight on Valiant Toski on the way to victory in yesterday's Godstone Selling Hurdle at Lingfield

SPORTS NEWS 13

Rugby League

Warrington look to Cullen for leadership

Paul Fitzpatrick

HE mantle of Warrington club captain has fallen to Paul Cullen; as one of the game's most articu-late and intelligent players he should wear it well.

Cullen, now 32, used to be one of the game's firebrands, burning on one of the shortest fuses in the business. He used to run on to the pitch, he says, with an angel on one shoulder was never quite sure which one would carry the day.

The fool is the person who never learns, however, and it is almost six years since Cul-len last appeared before the disciplinary committee. On his last visit he was told that they never wanted to see him again. He took the hint.

Cullen by a distance War-rington's longest-serving player, takes on the skipper's job left vacant by Greg Mack-ey's return to Australia. His first task will be to try to lead Wire into Saturday week's Regal Trophy final for the second straight year by win-ning at St Helens in tonight's

re-arranged semi-final.
"We have enough power and skill to win the game," said Cullen, who returns along with lestyn Harris, Kelly Shelford, Mark Jones and probably Andy Currier. But the exciting 18-year-old loose-

have a late fitness test on a

damaged thigh.
"We won't win," Cullen added, "if we play like we did in the second half against Wigan on Monday. Our intensity in defence ebbed away drastically and, if we let that

happen again, we will have problems." St Helens have problems, too, and not only appertaining to tonight. Against Wigan on Boxing Day Saints practically fielded a reserve side and they will have to explain why to a Rugby Football League inquiry tomorrow.

They will play a much more recognisable team this time. Bobby Goulding, their scrum-half and captain, is back from suspension and Hayes and Gibbs also return to the back division.

But they are still without three of their best players in Paul Newlove, the club's re-cord signing. Anthony Sulli-van and Chris Joynt, the back-row forward.

That these players are still missing might help Saints at the inquiry, but their ab-sences will not do them any favours tonight.

● Leeds have settled "amica-bly" with Doug Laughton, who was threatening to take his employers of four years to an industrial tribunal. Unconfirmed reports claim Laughton, now coach at Widnes, was offered a cash sum on the forward Paul Sculthorpe will | eve of the hearing in Leeds.

Nottingham runners and riders with form guide

3.20 Brass Of May

12.20 WEST MINDGFORD MOVICE CHASE (Dir D Six 110 pic CLA11 2.20 WEST ERHODORO HOWEE CHASE (Die I) 3m 14:
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535-13 CROPREDY BLAKE (222) T KINSP 9-11-12
1P-4 QUITE A MAIR (22 W Lecks 8-11-4
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634-25 BORO HELL (16) IR Allies 7-11-5
634-25 BORO HELL (16) IR Allies 7-11-5
7 312-22 XINGL LLOSTREE (18) (187) D Nicroson 7-11-5
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203	P016-SF DigNessica VALLEY (34) A Jones 11-11-13	& Curren +
204	1293-F4 TAMERICALE (86) (8F) N Twiston-Davies 7-11-10	S Jaymos
205	FO4-SP3 DOMENTE (19) K Balley 8-11-8	T J Marphy
205	30-P212 BARRYSES! (14) (C) (SF) W Brisbourne 7-11-9	
207	50:225-0 THE DATE BOY (33) (D) P Clarks 8-11-8	
208	S20/10/- CHAICSIS (756) D Murray South 70-11-4	
208	155P04 (OLAZARE (16) (D) Pi Brotherion 8-11-1	D Wales
215	&SP_004 TRY MEXT DOOR (\$3) M Sritain 9-10-13	C Cabill
211	305-022 DANCENG DANCER (35) D Geragity 7-10-5	
212	00400/U- FLY QUARD (405) N Babbage 9-10-2	شانجة علاصكر
213	ANDV-LID BISS PROPERTIES, (\$2) (D) A Barrow 6-10-0	مالداوبيم أوالا الأرثيبيين
214	2310P//- THE TITAN CHOST (964) 8 Coathan 7-10-0	
215	F45352 GOME AWAY (20) M Hammond 7-10-0	
216	SO462-DD MY SISTER LIDCY (35) Miles K Whitehouse 6-10-0	G F Byrns
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102	SIZE -17 TAKE THE BUCKESKIN (48) (D) T Thomson Jones 9-11-13	G MoCourt
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106	2/3/5-2 BATTYER BUY (33) D RESULTANT	W Marries
107	02 RAYMATIC (47) Mas J Primas 7-11-6	1 Debaran
108	8- MALLENS BAY (587) S Sherwood 7-11-8	
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U451 KREEF (15) (D) R Circle 4-11-4	
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3050 BUSHENIR (58) S Costago 4-10-10	
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18		MARSH'S LAW (93) (D) () Brannen 9-11-4	
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3 FELLOW COUNTEYMAND (26) K Balley 9-11-5

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5 FELLOW COUNTEYMAND (26) K Balley 9-11-6

602- RIVERS SIDD (28) J Edward 7-11-6

503- RIVERS SIDD (28) J Edward 7-11-5

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3.50 RECORD STANSARD OPEN BY PLAT 24 E1,721 1 MICHTY MOSS (30) D Michologo 5-11-12 ...
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Lingfield (A.W. Flat)

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2.30 TOO MANY COOKS HANDICAP OF \$3,169

| CO TOO BANY COOKS HANDSCAP of ES,168
| D64224 SPEEDY CLASSIC (17) (CD) M Hector-Elfa 7| D0225 BELDS (17) (CD) (D) T Nauphon 5-0-0
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| 340054 PAGESOY (101) (CD) P Figsiam 7-6-5
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214164- BIVAL BID (17) (CD) Mrs N Macasky 8-6-8 GEOT 2- AWESOME POWER (28) (CD) J Hills 10-9-3 SISSON - LANDLORD (29) (CD) J Toler 4-9-1 SISSON - TODELLAL (SD) (CD) W Tomer 5-9-1 D04500 - CHARCEY FIELLA (113) K Nory 5-9-0 500111- SECRETARY OF STATE (1316) (0) D Arb 510301- TUTAL RACH (17) (50) R Ingram 4-8-13 16306- BLASTED (57) G Thore 4-8-12 000324- RISKY TÜ (17) P Kelevey 5-8-8-4 465300- TROSSUNFAMA (313) J Bridger 5-8-2

1965: Bellermiter 6 9 0 J Colon 8-15 (H Collegeldyn) & ran

3.30 BEED IN THE HAND NAMOICAP SYO 77 \$2,873 0412— VICTIM OF LOVE (26) (D) R Charles 8-7 . 614— BANZHAF (26) (CD) G L Moore 9-2 6 00450-4 COPPER SHIGHT (2) P Haslam 7-10 1995: Sernei 3 9 7 C Retter 11-2 (P Cole) 8 ren : 5-2 Westim Of Lova, 11-4 Tirose Clash, 7-2 Benzhall, 4-1 Copper Bright, 7-1 Beille Of Holland, Maple

 Blinkered today for the first time: LINGFIELD: 1.00
 Erlking: 1.30 Golden Punch, Saltis. NOTTINGHAM: 1.20 Damas. SEDGEFIELD: 1.10 Orchidarma.

Results

LINGFIELD 12.20 (2nn 110 yels Mellejn 1, DARTHER, S Ryan (7-4 tev): 2, Solatitem (5-1): 3, The Causais (10-1): 15 ran. 6, 12 (7 Akahursi) Toto: 12.40 (1.30, 11.20, 12.50, Duali 1: 55.40. Trio: 12.40, CSF: 010.69, NR: Monite Schatte, Streetinesse. Tric: 28.00. CSF: \$10.09. NR: Moniet Scham, Stradinven.

12.69 (2m 110yds NdSe): 1, KUNGDOM; OF SHADES, P. Carberry (Evers Inv): 2, Efficaceaid (10-1): 3, Klog's Gold (14-1): 18 rgs. 38, 15. (Andrew Turnell) Tota: \$1.70. 11.20, \$7.20, \$12.40. Dual F: \$22.70. Tric: \$13.00. CSF: \$12.80. NR: Swinging Strices.

1.20 (2m Ch): 1, AIR SHOT, A Maguire (5-2 tay): 2, No Pain No Chil. (4-1): 3, River Lossie (8-1). 10 ran. Nk. 12. (0 Nicholson) Tota: \$2.90, \$1.70, \$1.20, \$1.90. Dual F: \$15.00. Tric: \$27.90. CSF: \$12.47.

1.50 (2m 110yds Hdiel; 1, VALLANT TOSK), D Bridgmater (3-1); 3, Latic Leader (2-1 lay). 11 ran. 1, 15. (M Pipe) Toss: \$2.60, \$1.50. \$2.90, \$1.30. Dual F: \$24.10. Tric: \$19.40. CSF: \$31.47.

2.20 (2m 44 110yds Ch): 1, TERAO, D Bridgmater (7-1). 2, \$36d Thyms (14-1): 3, 1

Total 1.50; 12.00, 13.00, 17.72, Dual F. 17.12, 17.10; 253.0, CSF. 183.8. Tricast: 1541, 18.
2.40 (2m 140yde Mddelt 1, BLAZON OF TROY, G Tormey (12-1); 2, Jeanmagh (12-1); 3, Bantadi (100-30), 9-4 tay Sporis View, 9 ran, Mr. 8, If Thomson Jones) Tote; 10.00; 22.00, 12.30, 12.50, Dual F. 184.30, Tric 1868.70, CSF: 172.70, Tricast: 1531, 18.
3.20 (3m Chp 1, 57 Michalon FARMAY, A Maguire (1-4 key); 2, Highbard Jone, (9-1); 3, Teachader (13-1), 8 ran, 15, 5, (0 Nicholson) Tote: 17.60; 21.00, 12.00, 13.20, Dual F. 14.00, Tric 14.00; 10.00, 12.00, 13.20, Dual F. 14.00, Tric 14.20; 21.00, 12.00, 13.20, Dual F. 14.00, Tric 14.20; 21.00, 12.00, 13.20, Dual F. 14.00, Tric 14.20; 21.00, 13.20, 13.20, Dual F. 14.20, Tric 14.20; 21.20, 13.20, 13.20, Dual F. 14.20, Tric 14.20, 17.20, 17.20, 17.20, 17.20, Dual F. 18.20, 17.20, 17.20, Dual F. 18.20, 17.20 (12-1); 3, Manthall (100-30), 9-4 fav Sporis, 100-10; 12.50, 12.30, 12.50, 12.30, 12.50, 12.30, 12.50, 12.30, 12.50, 12.30, 12.50, 12.30, 12.50, 12.30, 12.50, 12.30, 12.5

Sedgefield

12.40 Dalsy Days

2.40 Irlah Goo 3,10 Cum

2.10 Houg

12.40 SOCIAL CLUB MARES CHEY MON RUNDLE (DIV I) 22 SI 110yds 12,157 1- DAJSY DAYS (2009) J Homerod Johnson 6-11-4
OIII- DEEDTY'S DELIGHT (1777) T Etherngion 8-11-4
OVIII- DEEDTY'S DELIGHT (1777) T Etherngion 8-11-4
OVIII- DEEDTY'S DELIGHT (1777) T Etherngion 8-11-4
OVIII- DE HOR PRINT (177) J Dodds 7-11-4
OVIII- DESCRIPT (177) J Dodds 7-11-4
D-55 SELVER PERRY (17) J Dodds 7-11-4
D-55 SELVER PERRY (16) N Chamberton 6-11-4
DOVIN-2 THORNA (2011) Ners S Framed 8-11-4
P WYRSKIEV DITCH (123) Ners M Revetley 5-11-4
S45 RUSEY ROCK (27) B Morray 4-10-5

TOP FORM TIPS: Duky Days 6, Tages 7, High Penkowa 6

Bettings 2-1 Daky Days, Tuges, 8-1 Ruby Rock, 10-1 Rescally, 12-1 High
Rhyston, 2-1 Days

-						
1.1	1.10 COMMER SHOP SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE 2m 1f 110yds \$2,004					
1	5540-04	STATELY HOME (19) P Bowen 3-12-0		R Johnson (3		
2	3/P-P23P	DEEP DAWN (20) S Clark 13-11-13		Miss R Clark		
3	53-1415	EXCLUSION (31) J Hetherton 7-11-13		R Barkey		
4		MARKED CARD (250) Mrs M Kendall 8-11-5				
5						
8		PIER THIRTY NIME (22) J Parkes 10-11-0		& Dobbie		
7		EMERALD VENTURE (28) F Colon 9-10-12		D J Mother		
Ř		KHIBERLEY BOY (36) Mrs M Paveley 6-10-11				
-		ORCHIDARISA (47) J Quint 4-10-8				
10		WHITEGATESPRONCESS (20) B Eduson 5-10-7				
11						
12		PERCY PIT (17) H Alexander 7-10-0				
13		DOZEM DIRHAM (36) J Norton 4-10-0				
14		THARSES (15) W Smith 11-10-0				
15		THOMAS BAND (38) M Dods 7-10-0				
13	4-10-0	1 10-01 - 10-01 - 10-01 - 10-01 - 10-01 - 10-01		وسعب بر		

707 FORM 1TPS: Klimberley Boy 8, Percy PE 7, Stalely Home 8 Betting: 7-5 Kimberley Boy 3-1 Stalely Home, 6-1 Exclusion, 7-1 Orchidarma, 8-1 Emerald Venture, Percy Pit, 12-1 Deep Dawn, Dozen Dirham.

1.40 sengerte o cocket cuir novice chuse 2m 11 ca 162 PORDATE LEGISLATION COLUMN TOWARD COLUMN TOWARD COLUMN TO A COLUMN TOWARD COLUMN TO COLUMN TOWARD COLUMN TOWARD COLUMN TOWARD COLUMN TOWARD CO

6 remoters TOP FORM TIPS: Lockney TOP FORM TIPS: Lockmagrain 10, Devilry 7, Cilvine 6 Bettings 5-4 Lockmagrain, 7-2 Cilvine, 9-2 Devilry, Montrave, 16-1 Mihemaanies, Old Ale. 2.10 GEDROR SKILLCASTER MEMORIAL CUP (Handless Chees) 2m ff C2.005 430340 ANDRELOT (19) P Bowns 9-12-0 011-3UU DARK OAK (19) J Curis 10-11-11

3.10 social cuie mares only mon hurdle (die e) 2m st 110745 C2,167 335 ALL ON (32) J Hemerton 5-11-4 0 Chinishop Katte (18) S Ketilowal 8-11-4. 2-2 CURSMAN REAPSODY (5-2) (16) M H Eas 50 DATURLTHEO (43) D Mofisti 5-11-4

inge 5-4 Cumbrina Rhapsody, 3-1 All On, 8-1 Milities Image, 10-1 Gildorane Lass, Militewell, 12-1 Rem 3.40 CEDDESFELD HALL HANDICAP MIROLE 2m # 110yes 43,681

1 34F47-P AMAZON EXPRESS (44) P Bones 7-12-0 2 121-83 CUTTMENAT KID (25) (CD) Mrs M Reveloy 6 3 LP3-445 HOTARLE EXCEPTION (29) (CD) Mrs M Rev 4 PO-PRO2 SHAMBION OLEM (37) M Smith 10-11-5 ...
5 13-4 PRIDE OF BAY (84) C Fairburn 5-11-3 ...
8 2U-340 WEAVER GEORGE (26) J Helleus 6-21-8 ...
7 3308-6 GLESHURE (23) (c) G Moore 5-10-11 ...
8 59132 MOCATCHEN (30) (c) K Morgan 7-10-9 ...
9 50-F12 NYE CHOSENIO (74) (CO) M H Easterly 6-10 ...
10 2422-P3 TOPOTHEROSTRIRACING (45) (87) P Beau

18 Februari FOR Phoen TyPs: Cleanugh S, Moontchim 7, Rya Crossing 5 Betting 3-1 NocMcDim, 7-2 Custron; Kid, 9-2 Rya Crossing, 5-1 Pride Of May, 6-1 Shasson Glen, Wasver Seorga, 5-1 Notable Exception. • Garolo, ridden by Graham Bradley and trained by Charlie Brooks, won the Prix Jacques Pinel de Grandchamp at Cagnes-sur-Mer yesterday.

[R Bastiman] Tote: 12.90; E1.20, E2.80, 12.50, Dual F: 28.10. Trio: E12.50. CSF: E13.25, Trioset 55.10. Trio: E12.50. CSF: E13.25, Trioset 55.10. Trio: E3.40; E1.40, E1.10, E2.00. Dual F: 28.30. Trio: E4.80, CSF: E3.82, 4.05 (Sf): 1, CHERKY CHAPPY, P Fossey WOUS, M Fenton (F-2); 2, Basploy (F-2); 3, Sensioris (S-1); 1.1—4 tev Mister Aspecto. 10 ran. 2, 3, (M Bell) Tote: £5.30; E1.30, E2.80. Dual F: E28.10. Trio: £5.30; E1.30, E2.80. Dual F: E1.000. Trio: £1.30. CSF: £1.32.5. Tricast: £5.576. PLACEPOT: £22.50. QUARPOT: £28.90.



Don't move the goalposts Divisions run | Div

higger will have come as a surprise to Bolton Wanderers, who believed the Premier League was the pioneer in this field.

fenders to prevent the ball's regular arrival even in nets of sacking of Roy McFarland. He was the last ball-playing centre-half to appear regularly for England, and it is ironic that his dismissal should come at a time when the English came is so painfully short of similar qualities in

The Christmas and New Year programme was notable for two things: the excellence of some of the finishing and the poverty of much of the defending. Against the goals struck so spectacularly by,

Ginola for Newcastle and Wright for Aston Villa has to be set a steepening decline in defensive standards.

Surely nobody can have come away from the holiday tainment would have been improved through expanding the goals by two ball-widths and one ball-height. The alarming thing is not that Sepp Blatter, the secretary-general of Fifa, continues to believe this nonsense will prevent further dull World Cup finals but that the International Board, which nor mally rejects such lunacies, is giving the matter serious

consideration. The essence of a good game of football lies in the amount of chances created and the number of shots and headers on target, not necessarily the among others, McManaman, as Nayim's prodigious lob-

quisite raritles, not the norm. Make the goals bigger in 1998 and by the turn of the century the height of the average forward will approach that of Kevin Francis, Bir-mingham's 6ft 7in striker. Making the ball smaller. which surely is part of the reductio ad absurdum of the Blatter proposal, would merely imitate an advanced

HALF-TIMES

New Year leaders	Lead	Спатрю
1995-96 Newcastle	7pts	_ `
1994-95 Blackburn	3	Blackbur
1993-94 Man Utd	13	Man Utd
1992-93 Norwich	3	Man Utd
1997-92 Leeds	2	Leeds
1990-81 Liverpool	1	Arsenal
1969-90 Liverpool	2	Liverpoo
1986-B9 Arsenal	2	Arsenal
1987-88 Liverpool	13	Liverpoo
1985-87 Arsenal	4	Evertan
1985-86 Man Utd	5	Liverpod
1984-85 Yottenham	20	Everton
'	-	
-		

not have enough problems. what with restrictions on passing back to the goalkeeper, an easing in the interpretation of offside, the outawing of the challenge from behind and the erosion of the referee's discretion on ques-

Perhaps it is not so surpris-ing, therefore, to find ball-watching a regular habit mong many Premiership defenders and the far post a far country when it comes to dealing with crosses of any quality. Such faults, moreover, are by no means con-fined to low-lying teams.

Before Christmas Arsenal were, with Middlesbrough, the leading exponents of the Scrooge tendency. In losing 2-0 at Newcastle on Tuesday night, even with Adams and Bould restored to their back

beaten 4–1 at Tottenham on Monday, could plead the absence of Bruce, Pallister and Irwin, together with Schmei-chel's pre-match calf injury, in mitigation — as well as the total unsuitability of William Prunier at centre-back when faced with Armstrong's fleetness of foot and Sheringham's speed of thought.

the shortest French trial since Marie Antoinette's. The Bordeaux defender came out of the White Hart Lane experience looking even paler and more gaunt than when he went into it.

For those forced to watch the relegation battle the quality of some of the individual forwards and midfielders – McGinlay for Bolton, Whelan and Dublin for Coventry, Bould restored to their back Kinkladze and Quinn for four, they continued to defend like Tiny Tims, Boro having and Earle for Wimbledon, and

Newcastle United represent the best of both worlds and, if precedent is anything to go by, will eventually bring the league title to St James' Park for the first time since 1927. They went into the holiday fixtures seven points in front they have emerged with the same lead and a match in hand. And, as the accompanying table shows, the New Year leaders usually finish as champions.

The strength of Newcastle's Premiership position should relax Kevin Keegan's players for their coming cup ties at Chelsea and Arsenal. For the moment Manchester United, with only six points from their four holiday games and a growing casualty list, have more cause for concern, especially with Liverpool picking

Fifa boss under rival fire

ian Ross and Robert Pryce

OAO HAVELANGE came under attack from Lennart Johansson again yesterday as the two men continued to divide the footballing world. Havelange, Fifa's presi

dent, has recently at-tempted to separate Johansson, Uefa's president, from his African supporters by promising Africa the 2006 World Cup as though

it were in his gift.

Johansson, who has ambitions on Fifa's presidency, pointed out yester-day that the decision could be made only by Fifa's executive committee. "Things are starting to get out of hand," he told Sweden's daily Expressen. "It is not for the president to travel around the world deciding where the World Cup

"I do not want to speculate about Havelange's motives. I can merely state that he, through his statement, has flagrantly disregarded the rules. His move is an act of desperation."

Havelange was embarrassed recently by a similar promise he made to Nigeria. While the Nigerian government was preparing to execute nine activists in-cluding Ken Saro-Wiwa in November. Havelange dined with the Nigerian dictator General Sani Abacha, accepted an honorary chieftaincy and promised that Nigeria could stage the 1997 world youth championships. Fifa's executive committee later confirmed that Malaysia would host the tournament.

Nigeria have since withdrawn from the African Nations Cup in South Afthey claimed, death threats had been issued to some of their players in the wake of

the November executions. Daniel Amokachi has been caught up in the un-certainty. The Nigeria and Everton forward had been expected to return to his club before the weekend but he has remained in Nigeria after hopes were raised that the Nigerians could be persuaded to

federation of African Football Isa Hayatou travelled to Cameroon on Tuesday to open talks with Nigerian officials. "If Nigeria does not participate in the Afri-can Nations Cup it risks a six-year suspension," he said yesterday.

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Free man . . . Bruce Grobbelaar finds admirers at Southampton court yesterday after being remanded for a committal hearing on match-rigging charges

Results

Tennis

Munter (Aut) to A Gaudenzi (11) 6-3, 6-3 A Voines (Rom) bi N Kulti (Swe) 7-6, 6-4 M Laruson (Swe) bt J Tarango (US) 6-4, 6-7 6-3; P Korde (Cz) bi M Stich (Ger) 6-3 6-4

6-3: P Korder (C21 bt M Stich (Ger) 6-3
6-4
AUSTRALIAN MEN'S HARDCOURT
CHAMPIONSHIP (Adelaide) Senend
round: G Rusedatt (GB) bi S Draper
(Aus) 6-3, 6-2: R Furlan (II) bi K Kicera
(Slo) 6-3, 6-2: R Furlan (II) bi K Kicera
(Slo) 6-3, 6-2: Y Kindenticer (Rus) bi M
Woodforde (Aus) 6-4, 4-6, 6-1 J Frans
(Arg) bi C-1 Stoch (G07) 6-4, 3-6-5
HOOPMAN CUP MIXED-TEANS TOURMANUSIT (Forth): Group & Creatia 2,
US 1 (Coolia first) Sangles: I Valori (G2)
to C Rubin 6-7, 0-6; G tremisevicrilajoli bi Ranobery/Rutin 6-1 6-2
Group & Australia 1, Gormany 2 (Aus
tret): Engoser N Eratice (G3) to A Haber
3-6, 1-8; M Philippousses (est to M Simner
6-4, 6-7, 6-7, Doubless PhilippoussisGrantite in Simner/Huber 1-6 6-2 6-4, 5-7, 6-7, Doubless Philippoussis-//Brastitice bt Sinner/Huber 7-6, 6-2 /ABREAY CLASSIC WOMEN'S TOURNA-MENT (Auckland): Second round: F La-best (Arc) bt J Krujer (SA) 6-2, 6-4, 8 Pasiliar (Aut) bt P Sinver (US) 6-2, 3-4, 6-2; K Kashweedt (Ger) bt F McGuilla, (Aut) 7-6, 7-5, J Huber d-Decugle (Fr) bt I Courtois (Bel) 7-5, 6-4, 5 Hack (Ger) bt S Farina (III 6-4, 6-2, LI Fang (China) bt A Glass (Ger) 2-6, 6-4, 7-6, 5 Cacle (US) bt J Kandarr (Ger) 6-2, 6-2, R Grande (Ib) bt A Suglyama (Japan) 6-3, 6-1

Basketball

90. LA Lakers 89

Cricket TOUR MATCHES: Wangamut NZ Presidents XI 111 and 153-5 (L Howell 51). Zimbobwe 172 [Kennady 4—22]. Maranus England U-19 236 (A Finch 78). Mashonsland Disucts XI 185 (Edwards 3–24, Batty 2-25) England U-19 won by 53 runs. WORLD SERVES ONE-DAY MATCH: Nobart: West Indies 194 (5 Chanderpaul Sh Lanka 124 (Gibson 5-42), West Ind won by 70 runs CASTLE CUP: Durbert Northern Trans-vaul 161 and 191 (C Lambert 95no), Natal 369, Natal won by an untings and 17 runs.

EMBASSY WORLD PROFESSIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP (Frimley Green): Second rounds R Burnott (Wales) bt R

lce Hockey BRITISH LEACUS: Promier Divisions Bisingstoke 5 Slough 4: Humberside 8. Shelfiold 3 Division Once Billingham 4 Paisley 21: Manchester 8 Tellord 4; Murrayteld 3. Dumines 8. Solibull 6.

Fixtures

Soccer

Rugby League HEGAL TROPHY: Semi-Snak St Helens v Warrington.
STONES CENTERIARY CHAMPION-SHIP, Hatiax v Oldham. First Divisions Featherstone v Wakefield; Widnes v Sal-tord, Keighley v Rochdala (7.45). ALLIANCE: Cestiford v Leeds; Dewebury v Bradford; Oldham v Salford, Warrington v Si Helens; Wigan v Hull, First Divisions Hallitax v York; Keighley v Leigh; Shefileld v Wakefield.

ice Hockev BRITISH LEAGUE: Division One: Swi

 The new Luter manager Lennic Law-rance has promoted the reserve cosch Wayne Turner to be his ussistant The 34-year-old Turner began his

• Gioucester RUPC have signed the for-mer Midlands Under-27 scrum-half Charlie Mutraine from Moseley. The 22-year-old is a former England Under-19 crick-ter who had two years on Warwickshird's staff.

• Hampshire CCC profits slumped from £22,292 in 1994 to £51,775 lest season, when the county struggled in the Britannic Assurance Champtonship, finished bottom of the AXA Equity and Law League and

The Wigan prop Nell Cowle, sent off tor loui play is the Bosing Day hammoring of SI Helens, appears before the Rugby League's disciplinary committee lodar iscowing that a onte-match ban would cause him to miss Saturday's Regal Trophy semi-final against Leods at Central Park — and the listal & waek later if he draws a two-game ban.

 England overcame a 23-8 deficit to gain a share of their two-gants triondly backet-ball series with a 76-74 win over Denmark in Copenhagon last night. the lineo-point play to give England a de-cieive 75-71 lead

Stave Bucknall (18 points) finished top

acorer for the accord successive night. Huggins finished with 13 points, lain Mc-Kinney, the Sterillett guard making his England debut, hill his lirst two three-point

Millichip to retire

SIR BERT MILLICHIP yes-terday confirmed he will step down from the post of Football Association chair-man in the summer.

In his annual letter to the FA's members, he wrote: "Let me take this opportunity of stressing it is not my intention in present circumstances to offer myself for re-election as chairman of the Association in 1996." Millichip, 81 years old and

15 of them in the job, went on to outline his aims for the next six months and reiterated his support for the England coach Terry Venables. "I have never been prepared to give ground to that

modern-day phenomenon, trial by daily smear. In 1996, we hope to see resolved once and for all the truth behind some of the most damaging allegations that have soured the game for too long. "Meanwhile, in the early

weeks of January - along with the FA Premier League and the Football League — we will be seeking to remove the uncertainties that have arisen from the Bosman judg board never supplied him

between the South coast's bitter rivals THE domestic game is

home to many local derbies, yet one of the most fiercely contested is a match which, because the combatants have long inhabited different divisions, rarely gets played. This Sunday is an exception; this Sunday rival communities will offer up for football. up a Solent prayer for victory

as Southampton entertain Portsmouth in the FA Cup. Entertain is probably the wrong word. The last time the two teams met, in May 1994, there was crowd trouble and that was just for a testimonial game for Pompey's goalkeeper Alan Knight.

Martin Thorpe on

Sunday's meeting

FA Cup profile

Already Portsmouth fans have had T-shirts made for Sunday's game bearing the date January 3, 1988. This was the last time Pompey played a competitive match against the team their supporters call "the Scummers", and Ports-mouth won 2-0 at The Dell.

Pompey eventually went down from the old First Division that season. "But after that result it didn't really matter," says Paddy Thomas, chairman of the Portsmouth

Supporters' Club. Meanwhile, 20 miles away along the South Coast, the Southampton fanzine Ugly Inside has been stoking the fires of rivalry before the big match by advertising the unique Pompey bra: "No cups and little support and abso-lutely no hope of keeping

This was the tie they all wanted. "We watched the draw in the pub," says Thomas, "and, when they said we were at Southampton. the cheers nearly blew the windows out. The only better draw we could have dreamt of would have been to play them at home."

"It's probably on a par with England-Scotland." says Ugly Inside's editor Clive Foley, adding gleefully: "When we knocked them out the Cup in 1984 they were riding pretty high in the old Second Division and quite fancied for hit them so badly they ended up nearly getting relegated."
Even by local-derby stan-dards that fourth-round tie in front of 36,000 at Fratton Park was amazing. Steve Moran scored Southampton's winner in injury time added because his team-mate Mark Dennis

In fact the rivalry between

coin thrown by a Portsmouth

the two clubs can become stu-pidly intense. For instance, at Fratton Park any visiting former Southampton player is likely to be greeted by cries of "scummer" each time he touches the ball. And Foley has received even worse treatment. "I've been getting death threats from Pompey fans." he reveals. "Two letters early this season and a phone call this week.

"It's sad really, because personally I don't particularly hate Portsmouth I'd rather see them in the Premiership because the whole area would be more pumped

Rivalry between the two communities goes back a long way. Portsmouth, a Royal Navy port, has long looked down its nose at the Merchant Navy outpost along the coast. And now the Royal Navy is being wound down, competition between the two cities has shifted to who runs the

best cross-channel ferries. "The two cities have always been rivals in one way or another and probably always will be," says Thomas, a Pom-

pey fan for 46 years. The football differences are also historic. stemming from the days when Portsmouth were the best team in England, never mind Hampshire, winning the League title in 1948-9 and 1949-50. "In those days Southampton were a Division South outfit," says Thomas, and in many people's minds they will always be that: a small club with small ideas and, as a result, incapable of producing high-quality football. Many people see them as upstarts."

Neither club can look down Both are short of cash and looking to upgrade inadeseem close to being taken over by a new consortium, and both teams are languishing at the wrong end of their

Nevertheless the atmosphere at the game will be allocated only 1.500 tickets because of The Dell's tiny 15,000 capacity, crowd trouble is unlikely — especially as 5,000 Pompey fans will watch the game on a giant screen at Fratton Park

Probably the tension will get the better of the players," forecasts Foley, "and I wouldn't expect a classic. But

And Thomas? "The dream scenario is not actually to win at Southampton. It is to bring and beat them there. Because we would pack the place with

Even ground capacities are a source of rivalry

his side and did not make any

Ian Porterfield, former

manager of Chelsea and Shef-field United, was yesterday

appointed assistant to Colin

Liverpool are likely to meet

Juventus for the first time since the 1985 Heysel tragedy

in the United States this sum-

mer. The clubs have an-

nounced plans for a friendly

match in Boston, possibly on

August 11.

Boston is likely to be the next destination for Frank

Stapleton, the former Arsenal

and Manchester United striker. He is set to be named

manager of a Major League Soccer club, the New England

gestures at the crowd.

Todd at Bolton.

Revolution.

Foreign limit is lifted in FA Cup

Russell Thomas

HE FA Cup has followed the Premiership in sweeping away restrictions on European Union players in the wake of the Bosman judgment. The FA announced vester

day that from this Saturday's third-round ties, up to and in-cluding the final in May, clubs can field as many EU players as they require. Alan Shearer has been cleared by the Crown Prose-cution Service over allega-

tions that he made obscene gestures at Middlesbrough fans last month. After the CPS decision the FA said it would not be pursuing the Several Boro fans com-

plained to police that the Blackburn striker made ges-tures at them after scoring the winner in the game at Ewood Park on December 16

Ewood Park on December 16 and sent a video to the CPS. But after viewing it the CPS told the FA that Shearer celebrated with clenched fiets by brated with clenched fists by

and two weeks.

 Bruce Grobbelaar, Hans Segers, John Fashanu and the Malaysian businessman Heng Suan Lim, facing charges concerning match-rigging were yesterday further remanded

Sport in brief

Hockey

Sean Kerly, Britain's match-winner in their Olympic gold medal side of 1988, is to return to National League action after an absence of three seasons, writes Pat Rowley. The 36-year-old has been regis-tered by Richmond, where he teamed up with Stephen Batchelor. another member of Britain's golden side, in an HA Cup tie in December.

Cricket

The West Indies pace bowler Kenny Benjamin has appealed against a fine of 10 per cent of his England tour fee for breaching the dress code. He said that the West Indies with the correct clothing, add-

ing that he travelled to England in trousers borrowed from Winston Benjamin, a shirt borrowed from Junior Murray and a blazer made for

Ian Bishop.
England Under-19s won their second match of their tour to Zimbabwe yesterday. beating Mashonaland Dis-tricts XI by 53 runs in Harare.

North Korea has confirmed it

Olympic Games

will compete in the Atlanta Olympic Games, completing a full line-up of 197 countries.

Athletics

The British Athletic Federation has confirmed a fouryear ban on shot putter Guy Marshall for steroid use. Mar shall, who rose from British No 54 to 17 last year, was tested at an inter-area match in Birmingham in May.....

صكنات الاعل

Matthew Engel in | Cape Town sees the last act threaten to tum bloody

Cricket

HE beauty of a five-Test series is that it retains the structure of the Shakespearean drama. The weirdness of this series is that we reached Act Five and absolutely damn all had happened: Act Two was a bit spicy but Acts One and Three were intermissions and Act Four mostly longueurs.

Now, in the first two scenes

of Act Five, we have had the lot. And, if this play has Mike Atherton in the role of the tragic prince, then yesterday afternoon - between 4.38 and 5.44 pm South African time was when Hamlet was finally driven potty.
When Atherton trudged off

into the twilight half an hour later, having got out to a shot of uncharacteristic indecisiveness, the denouement was approaching very rapidly

(Incidentally, 12 former England captains have been spotted in Cape Town this week. Any one of these might reasonably play old Hamlet's Ghost though Graham Taylor,

West Indies off the mark

Offic 42, helped West Indies finally break their duck in the World Series with a 70-run victory over Sri Lanka in Hobart, Tasmania. It was West Indies' first win in five matches since the limited-overs series began last month.

Sri Lanka were dismissed for 124 in 37.4 overs after West Indies had scored 194. Sri Lanka's spinner Muttiah Muralitharan sorvived an examination of his controversial bowling techclaimed two wickets for 46. is a fading memory now.

who is also present, would be an alternative possibility.) Nothing in cricket is so demoralising to a fielding side than a big last-wicket stand, most especially in a low-scoring game. One can bear being torn apart by a Richards or a Lara. But being turned into Charlies by a No. 11 is ghastly and England have been caught this way twice in the

series.
Deeply flawed cricket teams are always vulnerable to this kind of thing. It is also characteristic of teams coached by Bob Woolmer that the second half of the order often bat bet-ter than the first half: Warwickshire are just the same.

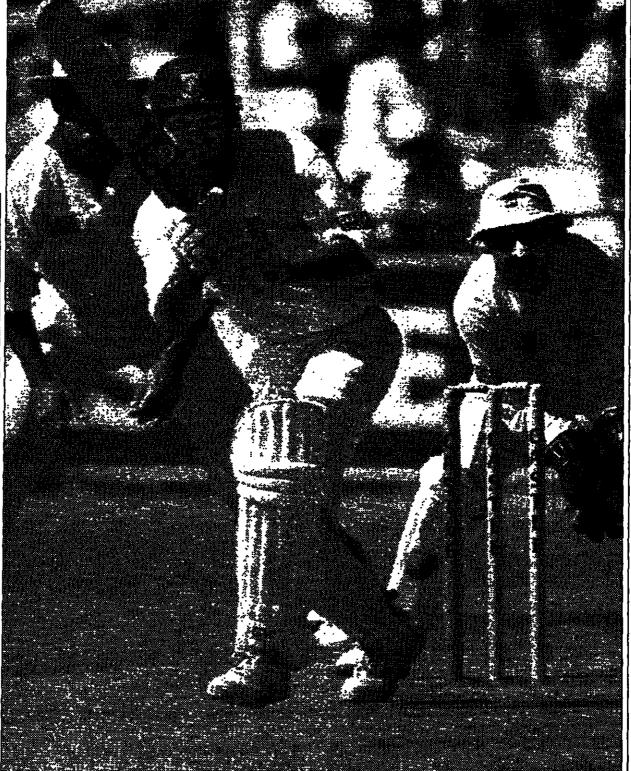
The tragi-comic stand be-tween Richardson and Adams defused one of the tensest passages of play witnessed in modern Test cricket. The lowscoring match combined with the state of the series meant that every run seemed to count not double but quadruple.

When Cork was responsible for four overthrows just after Adams came in, they were cheered as though they were 20. And he held up his hands in a gesture of contrition that would have sufficed for dropping Lara off a sitter on

From then on England's cricket grew ragged, as it had been in the morning. And by the end, when Adams was square-driving Fraser as if he were Walter Hammond re-in-carnated, the tension had vanished. One had to laugh really. It was the only way to avoid bursting into tears. Between lunch and tea Eng-

land had got back in the game through doing all the little things so very well: Martin and Fraser strangling the innings, the fielders picking up everything. But there is no margin for error in English cricket because the team is still not good enough. And as soon as anything goes wrong, everything is likely to go

The Oval 1994 is not that long ago and South Africa's batsmen are still scared of nique. Playing his first game since being no-balled seven times for throwing during last month's second Test against Australia, he christened The Destroyer. It



On the battlements . . . Dave Richardson haunted England thoughout the afternoon

he bowled especially badly. There was just no menace there. He ran up with the air of a man apologising to the batsmen for past wrongs, in-stead of trying to remind them. Miracles aside, it looks like the end of one era. anyway.

This remains a very puz-zling Test match, right down

The problem was not that | heed the red light and depart | far than the actual surface. | when he was run out (though that at least fits with the normal behaviour of South African drivers). Since there has never been

a major match on this particular strip there is not much local lore to suggest how the pitch will behave from here. Possibly the batsmen's fail-ings and the weather have to Brian McMillan's failure to | had more to do with events so | swinging.

all right yesterday because, be seen all day — just a little afternoon heat haze and the

One Capetonian knew in the weather was forecast: South Africa were going to be no rain but cooler. If batting when he woke up, there was a length of the mountain. Indeed, there was not a cloud to hordes of spectators, already plumes of smoke from the and chuntering. In the meanbrewery. So there was not time they are indulging in the much chance of the ball familiar British pastime of straw-clutching.

Last night another change conditions do deteriorate.

PHOTOGRAPH: ADIL BRADLOW

turning ozone-hole beetroot, plenty of time for sunbathing

Cowdell squares up to board

John Duncan

FEW rounds of inter necine strife looked on the cards last night with a leading small-hall promoter calling a meeting of licensed promoters, managers and boxers in Dudley at which he will marshal opposition to the British Boxing Board of Control's new safety recommendations. Pat Cowdell, the former double British and European champion, has called the meeting for January 21 at the Castle Hill Casino and has invited every BBBC licence-holder. He wants to force the board into calling an extraordinary general meeting to discuss the new measures, but the January meeting is likely to turn into a wider attack on

the way it governs the sport.
"There's a lot of people out there not happy with the way the board's been run," said Cowdell "Everyone on the board is self-appointed and they are ruining the game in my opinion. If it's left to them now, then in 15 years there'll be no boxing."

Cowdell is unhappy at recent safety recommenda-tions, devised by a panel of independent medical experts and circulated by the board after the deaths in the ring of Bradley Stone and James Murray. Key points include compulsory MRI brain scans for boxers, new rules on weigh-in times and an extension (to 45 days) of the standdown period for boxers knocked out or stopped.

Cowdell says these are un-necessary and that the ex-pense involved will destroy grassroots boxing. "Licenceholders must have a say in the way that the sport is run," said Cowdell, "No one involved in boxing has a say in anything that happens. The board of control will bring a new rule out but they won't ask me, a licence-holder, who has to implement that rule,

about it." But John Morris, the general secretary of the BBBC, rejected Cowdell's criticism last night. "I don't know what they're trying to achieve," he said. "The board believe that

Gritty as ever,

the old-style

battler from

Kevin Mitchell

the Midlands

particularly by an independent panel who sat for a long time looking at boxing.
"If Mr Cowdell is saying

that the board are forcing this on them, then he is wrong, What we have done is put the recommendations out as a consultation paper to area councils and asked them to discuss and debate and let the

Frank Warren, one of the country's leading promoters, also strongly rejected Cow-dell's action. "I think Pat is very misguided," said War-ren. "We've had a lot of trage-dies in the ring recently, the board have got a good work-ing party together, of neurosurgeons and top doctors, to see how we can improve of those guys and implement what they are asking us to do to safeguard boxers, then we can't expect their support and, without their support, there won't be any boxing

However, Cowdell may have tapped into a growing fear among smaller operators about the cost and effect of the changes. "If you put on a show at Dudley Town Hall. then the same costs go in as at Wembley," said Billy Aird, a small-hall trainer and manager. "That's not right. With-out the likes of Mr Cowdell and people like me, the bigtime boxers would never have got started off — yet we are being the worst affected by all

Warren, whose company have promised a trust fund to help finance scans for all box-ers, rejected that argument too. "Small-hall boxing died years ago," he said, "like music hall died before it. What they have to remember is that a punch doesn't dis-criminate between the small halls and the big arenas and boxers deserve the same pro-tection wherever they fight.

"You have to move with the times. The [BBBC] regime now are well aware of the pressures to ban boxing and the need to be flexible. Pat is just helping the anti-boxing brigade with this."

Morris concluded: "If what he's saying is that he doesn't want any more medicals than we must listen to what we are boxing, welf, I'm sorry, the being told by the doctors and sport has moved on."

Rugby Union

Cobner leads the shortlist for top Wales post

lian Open. She intends to play | she was stabbed by a specta-a full tournament schedule | tor in April 1993, is not among

Brewster back in business and ready to take on the world again

After radio consultation stop passage which quali-with her shore support fles under the rules of the

Snooker

Clive Everton

HE former Wales cap-tain and flanker Terry Cobner is expected to be named today as the Welsh Rugby Union's first director caps between 1974 and 1976, was one of eight short-listed of Sport.

keeps Ebdon

PETER EBDON swept past

Tony Drago 5-3 in the first round of the Liverpool Victoria Charity Challenge at

Birmingham's International Convention Centre yesterday

and declared that he "would be disappointed if 1996 isn't

the year when I become the

Beaten 10-3 for the UK title

last month by Stephen Hendry, the runaway World No. 1, he said: "Stephen's the best in the world but I'll never give in. My actual level of snooker has to improve to

With no ranking points at stake here this week, Ebdon

cannot improve upon his

third place behind Hendry, the bolder, and John Higgins

in the provisional world rank-

ings. But the £150,000 prize fund includes £30,000 for the

winner and, with each player

representing a designated

charity, there is another

The volatile Drago won the first two frames but could not take another until his 73 ac-

counted for the seventh. Eb-

don showed characteristic in-

tensity in recovering to 4-2 and in making a confident

match-clinching break of 72

in the eighth frame. Terry Griffiths, at 48 the

oldest player in the tourna-

ment and perhaps appropriately representing Age Concern, fell 0-4 to Darren

Morgan but closed to 3-4 be-

fore his fellow Welshman

fluked a snooker on the last

2100,000 in the pot.

seriously challenge him."

in full flow

Wales coach Tony Gray, Paul Thorburn, who captained

Wales earlier this decade, John Bevan, who played on the wing for Wales and the of rugby, a post with an annual salary in excess of stonal with Warrington, and 250,000. Cobner, who won 19 Dick Marks, the rugby direct tor of the Australian Institute

David irvine

priority.

Bob Fisher

red and eventually got home of the British vice-consul.
5-3 by doubling the blue.

Philip Ellis, to overcome

ONICA SELES, who has not played since losing the US Open final to Steffi Graf four

months ago, plans to compete in all four Grand Slam tour-

naments in 1996 with Wimble-don, the only major event she has never won, as her chief

"My main goal is to im-prove my game a little bit," she said. "Otherwise I will not be too happy with myself.

In Grand Slam terms my

main one is to do well at Wim-

bledon." She lost the final

there to Graf in 1992. Seles was speaking before

flying yesterday to Sydney, where she will contest next

week's New South Wales Championship as part of her

SAMANTHA BREWSTER yesterday started a new

attempt to become the first woman to sail solo east-to-

west around the world. She

left the Brazilian port of

Santos after her restart had

been delayed for a second time because of difficulties

in releasing a new spinna-

ker from Brazilian

who this week officially who this week officially started his £40,000 a year job. While Bowring will be in charge of all the national squads Wales run at senior level, the rugby director will be expected to establish a Waleb circle of play to be

over the next 12 months, plus

appearances in the Olympic Games and the Fed Cup. Though an encouraging

declaration of intent, it may be over-optimistic. Seles ad-mitted she had still not fully

recovered from a viral condi-tion that affected her blood

and left her feeling weak, and she still has a problem with

But having been out of the competitive game for 32 of the

past 33 months she is clearly keen that Australia — where

she has never lost in 21

matches at the Finders Park arena in Melbourne — should be the starting point for a full resumption of her career.

Hamburg, where Seles's

vivid teenage career — eight Grand Slam titles by 19 — was

able damage to the rigging

crosstrees at the beginning

She left Southampton aboard the 67ft Heath In-

sured in late October but

encountered trouble after

35 days when a spinnaker

halyard winch was ripped

off its mounting.

her right ankle.

High ambition Seles targets Wimbledon

preparation for the Austra so cruelly interrupted when

candidates interviewed last The rugby director will Cobner, a master at Oundle January 16 and is doubtful for Drut, who in October set up month.

Others included the former Wales coach Kevin Bowring, iles for four years until this against England on February sive contracts awarded to iles for four years until this season and, in the 1980s, was the assistant coach of Wales under the late fly-half John Bevan.

Meanwhile, the current Wales fly-half Neil Jenkins was ruled out for at least Welsh style of play to be three weeks with a broken adopted by teams from the collarbone. He will miss the Under-18s upwards.

tor in April 1993, is not among her ports of call. Neither is next month's Paris Open

where Graf, who misses the Australian Open after ankle surgery, is likely to return. Most of Seles' planned ap-pearances are in the United

States, although she will be in Tokyo immediately after Mel-

bourne and plans to defend her Canadian Open title at

Seles will be nominated next week as top seed at the

Australian Open, an event she won in 1991, 1992 and 1993. Nevertheless she regret-ted Graf's absence: "I'm

really very disappointed she's pulled out after the great match we had in '93."

Despite her lack of matches.

Seles is a strong favourite to regain the title at Melbourne. In winning 11 of the 12 she

this final hurdle. Brewster afloat. Although members the Lage de Santos, a 125ft-had been forced into port of the shore support crew high rock, south of Cape after sustaining consider-helped Brewster repair the Horn, across the Southern

85ft mast, the detour invali-

During the month-long

stopover the yacht was

completely re-stocked in

preparation for the circum-

navigation and for the

whole record attempt to be

In order to achieve a non-

reconsidered.

dated her record attempt.

Montreal in the summer.

3. The experienced Adrian Davies may return.

France's sports minister Guy Drut said yesterday that there were "troubling facts" in television contracts made by the French Rugby Federation and that he was referring the matter to the public

Seles . . . better serve

the pundits (and herself), not

only by picking up exactly where she left off in 1998 but

by showing she had acquired

a more telling serve.
"Because I've put on a bit
more weight I think my

strokes now have a bit more strength on them. But my

before. So there's a good side and a bad side. But I do feel

the biggest difference is my

Ocean to the Cape of Good

Hope and then north to an

imaginary line joining The

Santos.

France's two state television channels, said his inspectors' report showed punishable of fences may have occurred.

The private channel TF1 is reported to have made a higher bid, rejected by the federation, for the rights to cover domestic rugby and France's Five Nations games.

titles at featherweight and super-featherweight, add-ing the prized Lonsdale Belt to a clutch of amateur trophies including an Olympic bronze and Commonwealth gold medal. Rusedski up He was an upright technician of the old school, his against

educated jab giving more flamboyant types the sort of headache he is now at-Kafelnikov tempting to deliver to his administrative masters at REG RUSEDSKI faces the top seed and world No. 6 Yevgeny Kafelnikov in the quarter-finals of the Austra-Jack Petersen House in London. In 1981 he went to Texas lian Hardcourt Championand went 15 rounds with Mexico's formidable Salva-

ships in Adelaide.
The British No. 1's confrontation with the formidable Russian was reward for his convincing elimination of Australia's Scott Draper in the second round.

After his 6-3, 6-2 victory Rusedski, seeded seventh in Adelaide, said he was pleased with his game — "my serving and ground strokes were good" — but that he was tryng to vary his approach.

Even though Rusedski's service is his biggest weapon. he admitted: "I'm trying to play smarter, not go so much for the big serve every time. I'm trying to mix things up a little more.'

Kafelnikov, a big server in his own right, avenged last year's defeat by Mark Wood-forde in heating the Australian left-hander 6-4, 4-6, 6-1 in a struggle lasting 1 hour 45 Stefan Edberg's last year on

tour started on a losing note when he went down to his old adversary Boris Becker 6-2 had cheered his side to an 8 7-5 in the first round of the win over Sheffield Steelers. Qatar Open.

In Perth Martin Sinner the second set before beating Mark Philippoussis 4-6, 7-5, 7-6 as Germany ended the

trophy holders an unassail-able 2–0 lead. The Australians Weather conditions were not ideal yesterday when have lost their two ties. winds were frustratingly light. "It is likely to be

Lizard in Cornwall and Ushant, off the coast of host nation's hopes in the Brittany, before turning | Hopman Cup mixed team south and heading back to event. Sinner's triumph gave the

Croatia, top seeds, enjoyed It required the assistance | crew she diverted to Santos | World Sailing Speed Record | 24-48 hours before I make | their second victory as they of the British vice-consul, where the damage was con- | Council, Brewster must | any serious headway." she | crew she diverted to Santos | World Sailing Speed Record | 24-48 hours before I make | their second victory as they | crew she diverted to Santos | Council, Brewster must | any serious headway." she | crew she diverted to Santos | Council, Brewster must | any serious headway." she | crew she diverted to Santos | Council, Brewster must | any serious headway." she | crew she diverted to Santos | Council, Brewster must | any serious headway." she | crew she diverted to Santos | Council, Brewster must | any serious headway." she | crew she diverted to Santos | Council, Brewster must | any serious headway." she | crew she diverted to Santos | Council, Brewster must | any serious headway. She | crew she diverted to Santos | Council, Brewster must | crew she diverted to Santos | council, Brewster must | crew she diverted to Santos | council, Brewster must | crew she diverted to Santos | council, Brewster must | crew she diverted to Santos | council, Brewster must | crew she diverted to Santos | council, Brewster must | crew she diverted to Santos | council, Brewster must | crew she diverted to Santos | council, Brewster must | crew she diverted to Santos | council, Brewster must | crew she diverted to Santos | council, Brewster must | crew she diverted to Santos | council, Brewster must | crew she diverted to Santos | council, Brewster must | crew she diverted to Santos | council, Brewster must | crew she diverted to Santos | council, Brewster must | crew she diverted to Santos | council, Brewster must | crew she diverted to Santos | council, Brewster must | crew she diverted to Santos | council, Brewster must | crew she diverted to Santos | council, Brewster must | crew she diverted to Santos | council, Brewster must | crew she diverted to Santos | council, Brewster m



ers at any weight. Nelson, indeed, recently won an other world title at 37. Cowdell retired in 1988 with a record of 36 wins in 42 bouts — all but a handfol of them at championship level — after losing in eight rounds to the Welsh pros-pect Floyd Havard. That stoppage was enough to convince him there were easier ways to make a living. Whether he still thinks so is debatable.

"I've had the board on to me," he said yesterday, "but we have to find out dor Sanchez in an unsuccessful challenge for the world title. It is his misfortune, though, to be best guards aren't needed but tune, though, to be best guards aren't needed but remembered for a first- the board surely has the

round knockout by the money to finance them. great Ghanaian world champton Azumah Nelson in Birmingham in 1985. Still, it was no disgrace. He a week, some of them un-was "caught cold" by one of employed, to find £500 for the most fearsome punch- brain scans."

ice Hockey

Sheffield suffer sin and din

Vic Batchekler

JOHN GRIFFITH was a happy man. "I'm surprised the roof's still on," said Humberside Hawks' coach after a capacity crowd of 2,200 at the Humberside Ice Arena had cheered his side to an 8-3

Hawks clinched the points with an unanswered blast of saved three match points in four goals in the first 15 minutes. By the end Mike Bishop Darcy Cahill and Phil Huber had all scored twice, five of the Hawks' goals coming with at least one Sheffield player in the sin bin.

Tim Cranston, the Steelers' most frequent offender, "blew a fuse" five seconds from time and was ordered off the ice. Steelers are now two points behind Cardiff Devils (31 from 20 games) at the top of the league and have a game in l

hand. So do third-placed Not-tingham Panthers (27 points) whom Steelers visit on Satur day. Humberside are fourth with 22 points from 19 games.

Cricket Live Commentary

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72...

LAST-WICKET STAND SWINGS SERIES BACK TOWARDS SOUTH AFRICA

England pay for Atherton blunder

Mike Selvey in Cape Town

N THE course of a Test series a captain will be called upon to make thousands of decisions. Most are of insignificant importance, a few have a more direct impact on prothough, comes one on which can hinge not only a session or even a match but the out-

come of the series.

Late yesterday afternoon
Mike Atherton, so often the
cornerstone of the England side, made a mistake that by this evening will probably have cost England this match and with it the series. Like the bounty hunter who returned to try to nail the. Outlaw Josey Wales, it was something he had to do but it

Atherton's blunder, as it is

Scoreboard

Bowling: Cork 25-6-80-3: Malcolm 20-6-58-0: Martin 24-9-37-3: Fraser 17-10-34-1; Waskinson 15-3-35-2.

To bests R A Smith, G P Thorpe, G A Hick. +R C Russell, M Watkinson, D G Conk, P J.

the second new ball with his most prolific wicket-taker Dominic Cork in an attempt to mop up the final two South African wickets.

He might have opted for Peter Martin, who had bowled heroically on a searingly hot afternoon to apply such a tourniquet that the flow of runs had dried to a trickle; or Angus Fraser who had rediscovered some of his rhythm and with it his

Instead, as many captains
— including, if they were honest, hundreds of amateur would have done, he handed the ball to his fastest bowler Devon Malcolm in the not unreasonable belief that tailenders roll over and die.

Allan Donald duly did, to the Cork-Russell combina tion, giving the England wicketkeeper his 27th victim of an abbreviated series and taking him to within a single dismissal of Rod Marsh's alltime series record. That reduced South Africa, who had begun the day at 44 for two, to 171 for nine, an 18-run lead that remained slender even on such a helpful pitch.

South Africa, for all their packed batting side, were on the rack and England, buoyant, knew that a swift coup de innings and the game could be theirs. Instead the next hour

turned serious drama to abject farce as Dave Richardson, Russell's counterpart, and Paul Adams, an 18-year-old in only his second Test, reduced Malcolm to rubble, and with it the England effort. By the time Hick snaffled Adams at second slip to give Martin his third wicket, this unlikely pair had taken the score to 244, adding 73 for the last wicket, the highest pariner-ship of the match. There was things Donald 4-2-9-1; Pollock an unbeaten 54 to Richardson, his second half-century in



Vital breakthrough . . . Allan Donald celebrates the priceless wicket of Mike Atherton

utter delight of the packed

crowd, 29 from Adams. A lead of 91, culled from no where was beyond the wildest dreams of even the most optimistic South African. It reversed the whole tone of the day, leaving England 30 minutes, or seven torrid overs, from Donald and Pollock both with boilers stoked and steaming — before the close.

It was Donald, having a magnificent game with the ball, who in his third over had Atherton caught at the wicket, fencing wearily. There is no more focused cricketer than the England

ceding events had preyed nated, lengths and lines were even on his mind maintained with admirable

It was left to Stewart and the nightwatchman Angus Fraser, missed by McMillan at second slip off the last ball of the day, to see England to stumps at 17 for one. Hope, in cricket, springs eternal but things look desperate.

Both in the morning ses sion, when Kirsten, Cullinan and Rhodes played lacklustre bowling with some comfort, and in that awful final session the crowd were witness to the scabby face of English cricket. By lunch South Af-rica had taken the score to 109 for three, with Cullinan past his half-century, and already the chatter was of the match having been taken out of

the ball as the batsman at-tempted to kick-start things English control.
Strong words must have At this point England, the millionaires with the bulging been spoken during the inter-val, however, for afterwards

colm's bowling is always a high risk, the equivalent of placing bets on a single roulette number rather than red or black. Of 31 runs added before he was removed from the attack, 18 came from his four overs. It uncreaked the scoreboard, altering the initiative just as readily as a windshift can change the course of a

regatta.

There was sadness in it all. Only a couple of months ago Nelson Mandela was referring to him as The Destroyer following his record nine South African wickets at The Oval. Since then, rejected and humiliated at times, he has had a miserable tour. He remains the destroyer but this time, it seems, it is of his

own team's ambition. Matthew Engel, page 15

US take soul responsibility to heart



lan Katz

OMETHING peculiar has happened in offices, bars and living rooms across the United States; people have stopped moaning about sport. There is, of course, no short-

age of whingeing about particular teams and players; about the Dallas coach Barry Switzer's inexplicable decision to run the ball on a late-game fourth down against Philadelphia or the latest atrocity perpetrated by the Yankees megalomaniac

owner George Steinbrenner But the existential angst has gone. When I arrived in the US a little over a year ago one could not read the back pages for more than a day or two without being assailed by a distribe about how Ameri-

can sport had lost its soul. The most profound source of ennul was the months-old baseball strike which had already cost a World Series and threatened to derail the entire 1995 season. How had the game of Joe DiMaggio and Babe Ruth been reduced to a slanging match between two groups of petulant million-aires, the nation wondered

But the country's other mainstream sports were hardly inspiring the fans either. The NBA, for a decade the success story of US profes-sional sport, seemed dull and like Michael Jordan, Magic

Johnson and Larry Bird. Fans muttered about a new generation of trash-talking players with egos to match their pay-cheques. The unlovely 1994 championship finals between the thuggish New York Knicks and the not-yetclassy Houston Rockets reeked of mediocrity.

VEN gridiron football, notwithstanding the return to greatness of the San Francisco 49ers, offered little consolation. A familiar group of veterans continued to dominate while the AFC, vanquished in the previous 10 Super Bowls, again failed to produce a team to challenge seriously for the

How things have changed Not only did the baseball players return to the diamonds in time to salvage an abbreviated

season but they produced a classic. Cal Ripken moved coolly past Lou Gehrig's "un-breakable" record of 2,130 consecutive games; Albert Belle became the first player to slug occame the Hrst player to stug 50 homers and 50 doubles in a season; and new but distinctly old-fashioned stars such as At-lanta's square-jawed Chipper Jones evoked a more roman-

And the World Series was nothing less than poetic. It pitched the Cleveland Indians, a resurgent team, against the Atlanta Braves, the team

UT nowhere is the difference more striking than in basketball. Before Jordan's return from self-imposed exile in March, the closest thing the NBA had to stars was fading veterans such as Charles Barkley and Patrick Ewing and a handful of youngster such as Shaquille O'Neal. It spoke volumes that the league's Most Valuable Player award went to David Robin-son, the high-scoring but workmanlike San Antonio centre.

Now commentators salivate over the most exciting basketball scene since the Lakers' glory days of the mid-Eighties Jordan's Chicago Bulls, with their best ever starting record of 25 wins and three defeats this season, have turned the game into an exquisite ballet but no one is calling them Michael Jordan and the Jordanaires any more.

That is because, alongside His Airness, Scottie Pippen has grown into a full-blown superstar while the Bulls' new acquisition, the NBA's bad boy Dennis Rodman, has denanded his share of the lime light. And the rest of the NBA seems to be sparkling like a clear night-sky; in Orlando the silky point-guard Anfer-nee "Penny" Hardaway is drawing comparisons to Johnson and Je cdan; in Detroit the silver-tongued rookie Grant Hill is playing almost as well as he talk in Libusion Hakeem Olay awor, and his Rockets still soar

Even the football play-offs seem exciting this year. The "winningest" team, as Americans like to say, are not Dallas or San Francisco but the AFC's Kansas City Chiefs. The top-rated quarter-back is not Marino or Elway but Jim Harbaugh of the improbable Indiana Colts, who won their first post-season game in 24 years last weekend. The Green Bay Packers, the gritty team-without-a-town, are great again. With so much to talk about.

it is hardly surprising the moaners have forgotten that American sport is dead.



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Maradona tells of his struggle against cocaine addiction

John Duncan

DIEGO MARADONA has for the first time described his daily struggle with cocaine addiction, saying he was speaking out against drugs "for the kids". "I was, I am and I always will be a drug addict," Maradona said in an interview with an Argentinian maga zine. "You can't just get up and say: It's over.' You can't. You have to wake up and say: Today I'm going to fight against the hell of drugs.' Only that way can you fight and try to

The 35-year-old forward said he first took cocaine when he joined Barcelona at the age of 22, four years before leading Argentina to World Cup victory in Mexworld cup victory in Mex-ico. He has since twice been found guilty of possessing or distributing cocaine and twice suspended after test-ing positive. "I suffered a lot because of drugs," he said. "Much more than

Maradona related how he was once so wasted that he was unable to get his daughter Gianina a glass of water. "I couldn't get up. I felt like I was stuck to the mattress. And my hand shook. The cocaine had numbed me completely.'

discipline and gradually the

innings was pegged back.

Only 38 runs came from 25 overs in the middle session.

with the loss for South Africa

of Cullinan (62) and Rhodes,

both caught by Russell in

successive overs, and McMil-

lan, who was run out by Cork's stupendous direct hit

from the covers as the bats-

after tea and, with the innings

stagnating and South Africa

clearly jittery, Martin had Kallis leg-before and Watkin-

son saw Pollock held off bat and pad at short-leg by Smith, who bravely kept his eye on

man tried to steal a single. The good work continued

Maradona went public with his problem as the Argentinian government launched a campaign against drug use by young people called "Sun Without Drugs". He will figure prominently in it.

He said he had told his youngest daughter Dalma: Papi made a mistake, a big mistake. Now I want to tell young people about this, and it is going to burt you, but I want to try to help those kids who could go through the same thing I went through

"And she told me: 'Tm with you. Papi.' I'm going to take her with me on the anti-drug campaign, but not often, because every time I tell about this she cries."

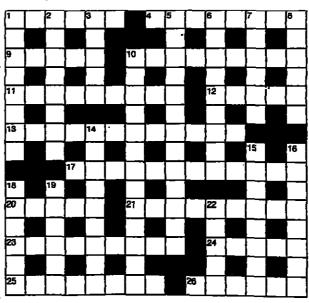


I'm inclined to think that Seven contains more style than content, and suffers from that other deadly sin of self-consciousness. Derek Malcom

G2 page 9

Guardian Crossword No 20,540

Set by Araucaria



1,4 Ancient patriarch in rash

development by fiery chariot racer? (6,8) 9 Electric company gets a big

shock on the Lizard (5) **10** Push-chair, a pet project with an infestation (4,5) 11 Woodwork at the fish gate

12 A month in Spain is a nuisance (5)

13 Talk books? (5,7) 17 Consequences, etc., of Prague morals? (7,5)

20 Beast expressed satisfaction about craving 21 Schism from church during

working period? (9) 23 American writer backed in to knock down our leaders

Governess*? (5) 25 Under 50% being under 18

26 Big gun at billiards (6) Down

1 Called once about firms at great expense (4,4) 2 One who makes notes with

pipe (8) 3 Free love comes in to be parted from (5)

5 English colony confused with suburb? That's all right

then (3'1,4,5) 6 Composer of "The Martyred Mountain* (5,4)

7 Adriatic merchantman strikes a hopeful note inside

in loss of tension (6)

8 Saw the negative principle

10 Hell of a clue for Pil (10,3) 14 Marsupial, a stunner, in the fashion of a carnivore (5,4) 15 Part I in a short day has "a grievous feuit" (8)

16 A boy to call up male voice choir in unison? (2,3,3) 18 Non-vocal beat? (6)

19 Dredge the River Swan? (6) 22 Fishy drawing of 10 down in water (5)

Solution temetrow

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